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YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

OIC calls for urgent aid for Yemen

JEDDAH (AFP) — The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Tuesday called on member states to send immanitarian aid to Yemen hit by floods in which at least 120 people have died. The appeal came in a statement from OIC Secretary General Hamid Al Gabid, who urged member states to "give emergency aid to the Yemeni government to help overcome the difficulties." At least 120 people have died and more than 100 others have been reported missing in floods hitting Yemen in the past week, Yemeni officials said Monday. Yemeni authorities have declared five provinces in the east and centre of the country disaster zones and called for urgent international aid for victims. At least 100 families have been left homeless and many of Yemen's mud-brick houses have been washed away or partially destroyed.

King hopes summit will bring about Arab reconciliation

HM, in L.A. Times interview, implicitly cautions Arab leaders against adopting hardline positions

AMMAN (J.T.) – His Majesty King Hussein has expressed hope that next week's Arab summit in Cairo would bring about reconciliation among Arab states and implicitly cautioned that the summit should not adopt hardline positions in the Middle East peace process.

The King, in an interview carried by the *Los Angeles Times*, also said he expected the new Israeli government of right-wing leader Benyamin Netanyahu would respect Israel's commitments as made in the agreements it made with the Palestinians.

The King also said Jordan was subjected to attempts at destabilising the country, and said the Kingdom's neighbours should bear the responsibility for such actions although they might be directly responsible for them.

It was an obvious reference to Syria, whom Jordan has accused of being involved in efforts to carry out sabotage attacks in the Kingdom.

"...Obviously, when people come across the borders, they must come from certain states," he said. "...They may not be the originators of these actions, but, certainly, they must foot responsibility for these actions..."

Asked whether he thought the U.S. could pressure Mr. Netanyahu to drop his hardline positions as he had stated, the King said:

"Let's give the prime minister a chance. I believe, God willing, that he will prove what we expect of him. In any event, the people of Israel have made their choice and we have to live with that, respect it and continue from this point to build."

Following is the text of the interview in a question and answer format:

QUESTION: What do you expect to come out of the Arab submit next week? Does the Arab World have either the resources or the clout to be able to come up with something to convince the new prime minister of Israel to move forward, not just to enact what has been agreed on so far, but to take the other major steps that will bring this historic (peace) process to a close?

ANSWER: I hope that the Arab summit, which will be the first after many, many years, will bring about reconciliation between those who represent the Arab Nation. Complementarity is the only way left to us to bring about progress in our entire region.

As far as the Israeli dimension of the problem is concerned, I don't believe the Arab summit should, beyond reviewing developments, do anything but stress our total commitment to all that we have achieved so far and our hope that progress will be made to build further on this foundation.

I believe it is too early, too premature, to go along the path of suggesting that there is any change in the Israeli attitude towards peace.

The elections were an exercise of a democratic process aimed at electing the person who presents the best hope for the people of Israel to lead them through the phase that is ahead. It

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Unabomber suspect is indicted

WASHINGTON (R) — Theodore Kaczynski, a former mathematics professor turned recluse, was indicted on Tuesday for four separate bomb attacks that killed two persons and injured two others, the U.S. Justice Department said. Justice Department prosecutors said a federal grand jury in Sacramento, California, returned a 10-count indictment against Mr. Kaczynski — the first charges against him for some of the Unabomber's 16 bombings between 1978 and 1995.

Senate challenges Mrs. Clinton

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate Whitewater committee, in a final report issued on Tuesday, challenged Hillary Rodham Clinton's credibility on a crucial element of the financial controversy and said it found a pattern of cover-up surrounding her role. The report by the committee's Republican majority said Mrs. Clinton, despite her repeated denials, was the person most likely to have left the long-sought billing records on her work for Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan on a White House table where an aide found them. It said it found this episode "part of a larger pattern of removal, concealment and, at times, destruction of records concerning Mrs. Clinton's representation of Madison."

U.N. lifts embargo on ex-Yugoslavia

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The arms embargo against states of the former Yugoslavia has been terminated following the arms control agreement among them, the president of the U.N. Security Council announced Tuesday. "All provisions of the embargo and deliveries of weapons ... have been terminated," Security Council President Nabil Al Araby said.

Turkey extends Iraq patrols

ANKARA (AP) — Parliament on Tuesday extended the mandate of a U.S.-led military operation protecting Iraqi Kurds until the end of July. Parliament made it clear that the extension was a temporary one to allow more time for negotiations over the terms of the agreement. The mandate had been due to expire this week. The mission known as Provide Comfort was set up after the Gulf war in 1991 to protect Kurds in northern Iraq from Iraqi government forces.

Kuwaitis get write-off of utility bills

KUWAIT (AP) — Parliament Tuesday passed a bill writing off outstanding water and electricity bills worth up to 50 million dinars ($166.66 million) owed by Kuwaitis. Most of the lawmakers in the 50-member, opposition-dominated National Assembly plan to run in parliamentary elections in October and Tuesday's move was widely seen as a vote-catcher. Legislators said the government has been forgiving debts worth billions of dollars owed by other countries, and extending hefty soft loans in millions to states which did not even fully support Kuwait in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

Netanyahu government gets off to a shaky start

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV– Prime Minister-elect Benyamin Netanyahu pledged to strive for peace as he presented his right-wing government to parliament on Tuesday, but his triumph was marred by last-minute revolts in his Likud-led coalition.

In a surprise announcement as he listed the 16 members of his cabinet, Mr. Netanyahu, 46, said he was keeping the portfolios of foreign affairs, housing and religious affairs for himself.

The move came after David Levy, a moderate who had been tipped for the foreign minister's job, suddenly refused to join the cabinet in protest at Mr. Netanyahu's decision not to offer a government post to Ariel Sharon, 68, a hardline opponent of Palestinian self-rule.

Mr. Levy boycotted Mr. Netanyahu's inaugural policy speech in parliament, the Knesset, and complained angrily that Mr. Sharon had played a major role in ensuring the Likud leader's victory over Labor incumbent Shimon Peres and could not be left out of government.

Mr. Levy later went into talks with Mr. Netanyahu, and senior Likud officials said a solution to the dispute might be found before the Knesset was to hold its vote of confidence in the new government, expected late Tuesday.

By law, Mr. Netanyahu is allowed to name up to 17 ministers plus himself, leaving room for a compromise deal with Mr. Levy and Mr. Sharon, whom officials said could end up with the politically important housing ministry.

Mr. Netanyahu only narrowly defeated Mr. Peres in Israel's first direct election for prime minister on May 29 and in a parallel vote for the 120-member Knesset Likud only won 32 seats to 34 for Labour.

The 15 other ministers named by Mr. Netanyahu on Tuesday were drawn from a coalition of the Likud bloc with three religious parties and two centre-right groups which together hold a comfortable 66-seat Knesset majority.

Other leading members in the cabinet included Yitzhak Mordechai as defence minister, Dan Meridor as finance minister and Avigdor Kahalani as internal security minister, all considered moderates in the right-wing camp.

Mr. Netanyahu's victory over Mr. Peres had been widely interpreted as a damaging blow to the peace process launched by Labour when it began granting limited self-rule to Palestinians in 1993.

Concerns grew when Mr. Netanyahu issued policy guidelines which ruled out the creation of a Palestinian state, a return of the occupied Golan Heights to Syria or any negotiations on the future of Jerusalem.

But in his general policy

(Continued on page 3)



Benyamin Netanyahu

Peacebuilding must be based on addressing social and economic dimensions of region — Prince

From Ayman Al Safadi in Ottawa

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday that efforts to build peace in the Middle East should encompass a broader base of social, political and economic realms because all dimensions of political economy must be addressed if rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts are to succeed.

"Jordan believes that human rights are an integral part of the totality of every human's right to the satisfaction of his basic needs and, beyond that, equal chance to prosper," the Crown Prince said.

In remarks at a meeting on peace-building on the second day of a three-day programme-packed official visit to Canada, the Crown Prince also said that peace which depends on military superiority is a fragile peace which cannot last.

The importance of putting the human dimension at the centre of peace-building efforts was among the points which Prince Hassan stressed in all the meetings he held with Canadian officials since the start of his official visit to Canada Monday.

In a meeting with Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy, Prince Hassan emphasised the need for

(Continued on page 7)

Kabariti holds talks in Bahrain after delivering message to UAE leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Tuesday visited the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain carrying messages from His Majesty King Hussein to their leaders dealing with issues related to next week's Arab summit and discussed with them subjects of common concern.

Mr. Kabariti flew to Abu Dhabi on Tuesday and delivered the message from the King to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra said the message dealt with the latest developments in the region and issues related to the Arab summit to be held in Cairo June 21-23 as well as bilateral cooperation.

Mr. Kabariti also met with UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamdan Ben Zayed Al Nahayan with whom he discussed means to ensure the success of the summit.

Later Mr. Kabariti flew to Manama for a two-day visit and met with his counterpart Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa.

The Gulf News Agency (GNA) said the talks also dealt with the unrest in Bahrain.

Sheikh Khalifa and Mr. Kabariti discussed the "terrorist plan backed by the government in Tehran

(Continued on page 3)

Arafat reportedly seeks summit recognition of State of Palestine

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will ask Arab leaders at a summit next week to officially recognise an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, the government daily Al Ahram said Tuesday.

Mr. Arafat will ask the Cairo summit to "publish a joint statement confirming official Arab recognition of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," the newspaper said quoting Palestinian sources.

If his request is granted, it would be the first time an Arab summit recognised an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Arafat's desire to obtain a public and official Arab recognition of a Palestinian state is aimed at standing up to Israel's Prime Minister-elect Benyamin Netanyahu, who is refusing to give the Palestinians anything more than limited self-rule over he West Bank and Gaza," a source told the newspaper.

The summit to be held here on Saturday and Sunday was called to forge a joint front on the Middle East peace process which many Arab leaders fear is under threat from Israel's new right-wing government.

Mr. Netanyahu's government programme rules out the creation of a Palestinian state and any discussion on the future of Jerusalem. The programme also calls for expanding Jewish settlements on the Palestinian territories. Palestinian leaders have reacted angrily to the hardline policy guidelines. "This programme closes the circle of peace and completely returns us to ideological conflict," Hassan Asfour, a leading

(Continued on page 7)

Cairo hosts secret talks on summit

CAIRO (Agencies) — The foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia held a secret meeting on Monday, apparently to prepare for next weekend's Arab summit, Arab diplomats said.

The meeting between foreign ministers Amr Musa of Egypt, Farouk Al-Sharaa of Syria and Prince Saud Al Faisal of Saudi Arabia was held in a hotel on the northern edge of Cairo, far from the eyes of journalists, the diplomats in Cairo said.

Mr. Musa and his aides refused to confirm or deny that the meeting was held. But the diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the ministers apparently discussed the agenda for the summit.

They speculated that the meeting was not announced because the three ministers did not want to anger other Arab countries that might want to be involved in planning. The summit, to be held Saturday and Sunday at the Cairo international convention centre, was called on June 8 after a meeting in the Damascus by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah.

This week's gathering, expected to draw 21 of the Arab League's 22 members, is the first for the Arab World since the divisive 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

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Iraq urges Ekeus to study offer to end standoff over inspections

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq on Tuesday urged U.N. envoy Rolf Ekeus to take "seriously" its conditions for resolving a standoff with the United Nations over snap weapons searches.

Mr. Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. special commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, is due here on Wednesday to try to make Baghdad provide unconditional access to suspected weapons sites, U.N. officials said.

"Ekeus must consider seriously and responsibly" Iraq's proposal that the U.N. envoy and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz be present for inspections, Iraq's official newspaper Al Jumhouriyah said.

SENIOR U.N. arms official Rolf Ekeus said on Tuesday he would seek immediate and unconditional access to all suspected Iraqi weapons sites when he flies to Baghdad on Wednesday.

"They (Security Council members) requested me to visit Baghdad as soon as possible with the view of securing immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to all sites," Mr. Ekeus told reporters upon arrival in Manama, Bahrain.

But the proposals have been rejected by the U.N. Security Council which has demanded unconditional access to all suspected weapons sites.

Official sources accused the United States of creating the crisis to rob Iraq of a chance to have sanctions lifted by preventing UNSCOM from recognising that Iraq has met demands to destroy weapons of mass destruction.

A team of 54 U.N. inspectors left Iraq on Sunday after the Iraqi authorities

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Syria denies reported military buildup along Turkish border

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syria on Tuesday denied it had massed forces on its border with Turkey, but confirmed reports of Turkish troop movements along their common frontier.

Vice-President Abdel Halim Khaddam Khaddam "denied" any Syrian military activity along the border in an interview with the Arabic television Middle East Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) based in London.

"There are troops (on the border) and provocations from time to time by Turkey," he added.

"We recently asked the joint security committee to meet to discuss these provocations," he said, highlighting that "tension is in nobody's interest."

It was the first official Syrian confirmation of tension along the 800 kilometre border, since reports of troop movements first emerged on Saturday.

A Turkish military official Monday confirmed there had been movements of troops on both sides of the border, but said these deployments were for domestic security reasons.

The Arabic daily Al Hayat on Saturday said that Damascus had massed about 40,000 soldiers along the border after reports that Ankara was behind a series of explosions in Syria in recent weeks.

Relations between the two countries already strained by dispute over sharing the waters of the Euphrates River (see page 12), have deteriorated amid Turkish accusations that Syria is harbouring the leaders of separatist Turkish Kurds.

A military accord signed between Turkey and Israel allowing Israeli air force pilots to train in turkish skies further soured ties.

Turkey on Monday denied allegations that it had plans for a military incursion into Syria to hunt rebel Turkish Kurds whom it says are receiving support from Damascus. "There are no plans for an incursion (into Syria)" Foreign Ministry spokesman Nurettin Nurkan told a news briefing.

Yeltsin dumps Grachev to gain Lebed's support in run-off polls

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Boris Yeltsin, moving to boost his bid for reelection in a runoff vote, on Tuesday handed popular General Alexander Lebed top security posts and the head of his arch-foe — Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

Within hours of the announcement, the tough-talking Mr. Lebed announced he had moved quickly to dampen unrest among some officers opposed to Mr. Grachev's dismissal. "There will be no upheaval," he told a news conference.

He accused defence ministry officials of trying to put pressure on President Yeltsin or even organising a state coup against him.

Mr. Lebed said he personally visited the headquarters of various army units Tuesday morning and assured their "complete loyalty." He indicated that no arrests were made.

Mr. Lebed told the news conference the officials, whom he did not identify, tried to stage "GKCHP-3," a reference to the state

(Continued on page 7)

Israel's gains in Gulf, N. Africa in balance at Arab summit

By Joseph Chami
Agence France Presse

NICOSIA — Israel's fledgling ties with the Arab Gulf and North Africa hang in the balance at the Arab summit in Cairo when leaders will discuss the option of freezing normalisation with the Jewish state.

Although Egypt and Jordan are the only Arab countries to have full diplomatic ties with Israel, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania have lower-level relations while Oman and Qatar have agreed to trade links with the Jewish state.

However, several have warned of a reversal of policy following the election of right-wing hardliner Benyamin Netanyahu as Israeli prime minister.

And they are being egged on by the likes of Syria and Lebanon, which have called on Arab leaders at the June 22-23 summit to ban normalisation with Israel until a comprehensive peace settlement for the Middle East.

Israel first made a breakthrough with Gulf Arab states in 1994 when Oman, Qatar and Bahrain hosted talks including Israeli officials as part of the multilateral track of the peace process.

Bahrain, which generally aligns its policy with its powerful neighbour Saudi Arabia, chose not to go any further. But Oman became the first Gulf Arab state to welcome an Israeli leader, Yitzhak Rabin, in December 1994.

Shimon Peres, who took over from Mr. Rabin after his November 1995 assassination, went on to visit Oman and Qatar in April.

Oman agreed to establish trade ties with Israel and in May the first Israeli commercial representation in the Gulf was opened in Muscat.

Qatar signed a similar agreement with Israel in April but the trade offices have not yet been opened and now hinge on Mr. Netanyahu 's handling of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Earlier this month, Qatar's Foreign Minister Hamad Ben Jassem Ben Jabr Al Thani threatened to freeze normalisation with Israel if Mr. Netanyahu "ducked" his responsibilities.

That would be especially painful for Israel as it would lose out on a deal already in motion to buy liquefied natural gas from Qatar.

Although the other Gulf states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates — have not followed Oman and Qatar in their rapprochement with Israel, they did vote in September 1994 to scrap an indirect economic boycott on companies dealing with the Jewish state.

Israel's former Labour government also made headway into North Africa, with Morocco and Tunisia agreeing to open interests sections with the Jewish state in late 1994.

Mauritania, keen to win back approval from the West after it backed Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, followed suit in October 1995.

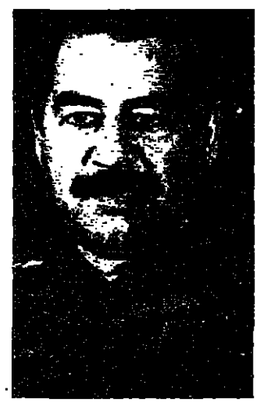
However, Morocco's King Hassan II, long a friend to Israel, sounded a stern warning after Mr. Netanyahu 's election win on May 29.

"Any retreat by any party (in the peace process) will only lead to isolation and the loss of any gains made in the last two years," the king said. He had earlier said a Peres victory was "indispensable" for peace.

The Arab summit, the first in six years, was called to draw up a joint strategy aimed at forcing Mr. Netanyahu to change his hardline positions in the peace process.

Saddam remains an Arab outcast

By Habib Trabelsi
Agence France Presse



Saddam Hussein

DUBAI — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, a self-styled champion of Arab causes, will be absent from the first regional summit to be held since he divided Arab ranks by sending his troops into Kuwait in 1990.

Saddam Hussein was the only one of 22 leaders not to be invited to the Arab summit aimed at reviewing the Middle East peace process after right-wing Likud leader Benyamin Netanyahu was elected as Israeli prime minister.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who will host the meeting in Cairo on Saturday and Sunday, says "special sensitivities" prevented President Saddam from attending.

By refusing to comply with U.N. demands ending the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait, Iraq has diluted sympathy from Arab countries like Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates which have expressed hope for a lifting of international sanctions imposed on Baghdad since the invasion.

Iraq's neighbours in the Gulf have become more suspicious about its intentions with each disclosure that Baghdad has hidden weapons details from U.N. inspectors.

Mr. Mubarak, who called for the summit along with Syria's President Hafez Al Assad and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah, said he wants to heal Arab divisions and support the peace process after Mr. Netanyahu's win last month.

But the divisions are blamed on Baghdad. No Arab summit has been held since most of the Arab League condemned the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, breaking rules which had required a unanimous vote.

The Cairo summit could only be called by the Cairo-based league, which should have invited all members without excluding Iraq.

But Mr. Mubarak said the question of Iraq was postponed to a "later stage."

His political advisor Osama Al Baz said "we are hoping for an improvement of the situation in the near future" so that objections to Iraq's participation are removed.

"Iraq blesses any initiative likely to reestablish Arab solidarity, but is not at all concerned by the peace process," Ahmad Al Tayesh, Iraq's ambassador to Bahrain, said.

Bahrain, along with Qatar and Oman, are the only Gulf Arab states to have allowed the Iraqi embassy to stay open.

Iraq, which fired Scud missiles at Israel during the 1991 Gulf war, is indifferent to the peace process which it said will "only strengthen U.S. hegemony in the Middle East."

But it supported the Arab summit as a means to debate the U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq, Libya and Sudan.

"Iraq has begun normalisation with certain countries of the anti-Iraq coalition, particularly Egypt," Mr. Tayesh said.

The two countries in 1993 exchanged interest sections and several Egyptian business delegations have visited Baghdad since 1995.

"Baghdad favours any form of cooperation with countries of the entire world, except Israel, and especially with the Arab countries which cannot do without Iraq," Mr. Tayesh said.

Clinton to send special envoy to Cyprus

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton, meeting with Cypriot counterpart Glafcos Clerides, said Monday he would send a special envoy to the region to help resolve the island's 22-year division.

The envoy, Richard Beattie, will visit the region in July, to "explore further actions that the United States can take," Mr. Clinton told reporters at the beginning of his meeting with Mr. Clerides in the Oval office.

Mr. Clinton used the occasion to express his desire to aid in resolving the Cyprus crisis, which the Cypriot president welcomed.

The White House issued a statement after their 45-minute meeting, saying the two leaders had discussed "how the United States could help promote prospects for a lasting and peaceful solution" in Cyprus.

Mr. Clinton "reaffirmed his personal commitment to this goal" and informed Mr. Clerides that the United States "intends to intensify its efforts through further consultations, to narrow the differences between the two communities on Cyprus, leading to a comprehensive settlement," the statement said.

Cyprus has been divided between the Greek and Turkish communities since 1974, when Turkish troops invaded northern Cyprus after a coup in Nicosia inspired by the military junta then ruling Greece.

A Turkish-Cypriot republic was declared in the northern third of the island in 1983, but it is only recognised by Ankara. Asked about his desire to achieve a U.S. diplomatic breakthrough there this year, Mr. Clinton told reporters that the United States "cannot control all the events in the region."

It was a clear allusion to increased tension between Greece and Turkey over several islets in the Aegean Sea that were a point of conflict in late January. Both countries are allies of the United States and members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

That dispute has significantly hampered U.S. efforts to resolve the Cyprus crisis.

Mr. Clinton acknowledged that poor relations between Ankara and Athens remain "a problem" for resolving the Cyprus conflict, a situation that has been complicated by the political crisis in Turkey, where there has been no stable government since September.

"It's difficult for any government that's not settled to make agreements, because agreements normally require some concessions by all concerned," he said.

"We hope that Turkey will be able to resolve its internal problems and establish a strong government that can effectively enter into agreement with its neighbours."

Later Monday Mr. Clerides said that Turkey's political problems should not stop attempts to resolve the Cyprus crisis.

"Turkey's internal political difficulties certainly complicate things, but this chronic affliction of Turkey should no longer be used as a convenient excuse for doing nothing on the Cyprus issue," he said in an address to the National Press Club in Washington.

"Under similar circumstances, Turkey has been able to take serious decisions on other important issues. Why not Cyprus?" He said any new efforts must be directed "first and foremost" toward Ankara, "both the political and military leadership."

Mr. Clerides asserted that "real change cannot be expected" through consultations with the Turkish Cypriot leadership because "it is unable to effect the necessary changes."

U.S. State Department envoy John Kornblum was dispatched to Nicosia, Athens and Ankara in March to lay the groundwork for a solution, although no tangible results were announced.

In May, Mr. Clinton reiterated his desire to launch a peace initiative to end the island's division, but added it would be up to Greece and Turkey to show "sufficient political will."

The White House said Beattie's mission would focus on security issues. A U.S. official stressed to AFP that it would be an "exploratory" mission to Nicosia, Ankara and Athens. "He is not going to come back with solutions," he said.

Iran promises not to force Afghans out, minister says

KABUL (R) — Iran has promised it will not force any of an estimated one million Afghan refugees living within its borders to return home, Afghan Deputy Prime Minister Seyed Ali Jawid said on Monday.

Mr. Jawid, speaking after a one-week visit to Tehran, said the promise was made during talks with Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

"President Rafsanjani promised not to force back any refugees who did not want to return," Mr. Jawid said.

"The president said he would issue instructions that Afghan refugees will not be given any trouble."

In March, Tehran said it would cancel their residence permits, requiring them all to leave within 12 months.

Most of the refugees live along Iran's border with Afghanistan's western province of Herat.

Although the Afghan refugees are allowed to live freely in the area, many are not allowed to travel elsewhere inside Iran.

"I don't believe Iran will force these people back," said Mr. Jawid, who described his talks in Tehran as very positive.

Millions of Afghans fled across the border after the Soviet invasion in 1979, creating one of the world's biggest refugee problems.

The number of Afghans in Iran peaked at around three million in the mid-1980s. Many returned home after the fall of the Soviet-installed government in Kabul in 1992, but the flow started again with the ensuing civil war.

Mr. Jawid said, the two country's signed an agreement on technical cooperation covering the repair of electricity supply in Kabul and technical training, and an agreement to open an Afghan branch of Iran's state-owned Saderat Export Bank.

Egypt opens TV and film production city

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has inaugurated the second phase of a new cinema production complex that it hopes will help the country regain its leading role as the Hollywood of the Middle East.

The Media Productions City, opened by President Hosni Mubarak amid singing and dancing, includes outdoor sets with Islamic, pharaonic, bedouin, village and forest scenes.

There also are highways and rail tracks for travel shots and an underwater filming area that will be populated with dolphins.

The city is being built at a cost of more than $1 billion, with financing coming from the government and banks. About $00 million in shares are to be sold on the Egyptian stock market.

Still to be built are 14 studios at an estimated cost of more than $100 million.

Opened on a limited basis in 1994, the city already has been the site for the film "Nasser '56" and the television series "The Knights."

The cinema complex is in 6th of October City, a satellite town north of Cairo.

Egyptian officials say they want the new facility to be like America's Universal Studios in California. Plans call for it to be opened for public tours.

Egypt historically has been the biggest producer of Arabic-language movies, videos and television serials. But output has fallen in recent years as other Arab countries opened studios or facilitated domestic movie production. Audiences also have been drawn increasingly to foreign-language films dubbed or subtitled in Arabic.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King Fahd hopes summit to lead to peace

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has expressed hope that next week's Arab summit in Cairo will help lead to a just and durable peace in the Middle East, the official Saudi press agency reported on Tuesday. It said the king made his comments at the weekly cabinet meeting in Jeddah on Monday night. King Fahd said Arab societies were "going through changes making it imperative to say yes to wise peace and to solidarity and no to war and disunity." He hoped the June 21-23 summit would come out with "a joint view for a comprehensive, just and durable peace in the region that would commit both the Arab and the Israeli sides to abide by all the resolutions and pledges made towards this peace and would epitomise the sincere intentions to continue the march till the end of the road." Saudi Arabia has not announced who would represent it at the summit, but diplomats believe it would be Crown Prince Abdullah and not King Fahd, who had a stroke in November.

Clinton, Mubarak to meet on July 30

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Middle East peace process will figure on the agenda when President Bill Clinton meets with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak July 30, the White House said Monday. Mr. Clinton extended the invitation June 9, one day after a mini-summit in Damascus between Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria. "The two leaders will discuss regional issues, including the Middle East peace process, as well as bilateral and other matters of mutual interest," the White House said in a statement. Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Clinton last met March 13 during the anti-terrorism summit at the Egyptian resort of Sharm Al Sheikh. Mr. Mubarak declined an invitation to visit the United States in June, citing scheduling difficulties. The Egyptian will be the second Arab leader to meet with Mr. Clinton since the victory of Likud Party leader Netanyahu in Israeli elections for prime minister last month. King Hussein met with Mr. Clinton last week. Mr. Netanyahu is also supposed to meet Mr. Clinton soon but the exact date of the visit has yet to be set. Mr. Netanyahu's visit was originally set for the last week in June, but was pushed back to the first week in July due to scheduling conflicts, a U.S. official said Monday.

Arafat to visit Vietnam

HANOI (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat is due to make a brief official visit to Vietnam Wednesday, the foreign ministry here said Tuesday. The veteran Palestine Liberation Organisation leader will be arriving from China. Mr. Arafat is the only senior level foreign personality to visit Vietnam in recent weeks. Vietnam, where officials are busy preparing for the ruling Communist Party's eighth congress opening next week, has long been a supporter of the Palestinian cause. In a visit of under 24 hours, Mr. Arafat will meet President Le Duc Anh, party secretary-general Do Muoi and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. Mr. Arafat last visited Vietnam in August 1993.

Reform, conservative Jews demonstrate

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Some 100 liberal Jews demonstrated outside Israel's parliament Monday to protest the effort by Benyamin Netanyahu's religious coalition partners to reverse the limited recognition they have won in recent years. "We are here together in order to tell Benyamin Netanyahu that we are not willing to let him surrender to all the demands ... which will affect our freedom," said Zamira Segev, who organised the protest by a coalition of reform and conservative groups. Mr. Netanyahu's government is expected to include Israel's three religious parties — all representing the more traditional orthodox stream — which won an unprecedented 23 of 120 Knesset seats in the May 29 elections. Reform and conservative Jews are especially concerned about the orthodox demands to reverse a recent supreme court decision that forced the government to recognise non-orthodox conversions. "Religious freedom is a basic tenet of democracy and we're worried that this government will not honour that," said Dana Miller of the New Israel Fund. Reform Judaism, founded in Germany in the mid-19th century, tried to modernise orthodox religious practice, sometimes by rejecting traditions such as wearing a skullcap or avoiding travel on the Jewish Sabbath. The conservative movement has kept more traditional elements of orthodoxy. About a fifth of Israel's 4.7 million Jews are observant, most orthodox.The reform movement is minuscule but is supported by many in the secular Jewish majority. In the United States, far more in the 6 million-strong Jewish population identify with the reform movement than the orthodox.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
15:00 The Flintstones
15:30 Iris
15:45 Bill Nye the Science Guy
16:20 Kelly
17:00 News Flash
17:02 Children's Programme — Les Polluards
17:30 Serie — Secret De Famille
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique
19:25 Drama — Changer
21:10 Drama — Hunter
22:00 News in English
22:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
23:25 Airwolf

PRAYER TIMES

03:50 Fajr
05:25 (Sunrise) Duha
12:37 Dhuhr
16:17 'Asr
19:47 Maghreb
21:23 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624598.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasancta Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman
Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Fine weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate to active in Aqaba; winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Mm./Max. temp.
Amman 15/26
Aqaba 20 / 34
Deserts 14 / 28
Jordan Valley 21 / 34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26 Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 54 per cent. Aqaba 43 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhles Mazahrah ... 820425
Dr. Wisam Hzayyin 748563
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyim ... 620115
Dr. Munther Al Oreini 770959
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644935
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Narroujh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir 276852
Al Ouds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Mazen Al Safarini 985832
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192. 621111. 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630521
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ... 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army &Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital .. (09)900890

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532000. 5, where it should always be verified.
Information on other flights can be supplied on phone (08) 52700.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:45 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
14:10 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
15:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:50 Madrid (RJ)
17:30 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
19:00 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
19:15 London, Berlin (RJ)
19:25 Frankfurt, Istanbul (RJ)
19:35 Paris, Vienna (RJ)
21:15 Rome (RJ)
00:30 Beirut (RJ)
01:10 Cairo (RJ).
04:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Other Flights
12:00 Sanaa (IY)
12:15 Jeddah (SV)
13:00 ... Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
13:15 Cairo (MS)
13:40 Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:30 Tunis (TU)
16:20 Algiers (AH)
19:00 Dubai (EK)
20:40 London, Beirut (BA)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
22:35 Larnaca (CY)
23:20 Amsterdam (KL)
23:30 Athens (OA)
02:00 Muscat (add) (GF)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
19:45 Tel Aviv (OAIA) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:30 Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Istanbul, Rome (RJ)
12:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:15 Berlin, London (RJ)
16:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
20:20 Colombo (RJ)
20:45 Beirut (RJ)
21:10 Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
21:10 Cairo (RJ)
21:20 New Delhi (RJ)
21:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
23:45 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights
04:00 Amsterdam (KL)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
09:15 London (BA)
13:00 Sanaa (IY)
13:45 Jeddah (SV)
14:15 ... Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
14:15 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Doha, Muscat (GF)
15:30 Tunis (TU)
17:20 Shariqah (AH)
20:00 Dubai (EK)
23:30 Larnaca (CY)
00:20 Amsterdam (KL)
02:50 Muscat (add) (GF)
04:00 Athens (OA)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
20:30 Aqaba (QAIA) (RW)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apricot 750/500
Banana 600/600
Banana (Mukammar) 520/520
Banana (imported) 780/550
Cabbage 70 / 50
Carrot 150/90
Cauliflower 250/150
Cucumber (large) 90/60
Cucumber (small) 120 / 90
Eggplant 200/ 140
Garlic 650/400
Lemon 770/500
Marrow (large) 150/ 100
Marrow small) 220 / 150
Mulukhiah 150/90
Onion (dry) 130/ 80
Okra 950/ 600
Orange 400/300
Pea 500/350
Peach 600/400
Pepper (hot) 420 / 320
Pepper (sweet) 420/320
Potato 250/160
String Bean 500 / 350
Tomato 120/70
Water melon 100 / 70

King receives Tweijri:
Al al Bayt, ISESCO sign agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Tuesday Abdul Aziz Al Tweijri, the Director General of the Rabat-based Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) and reviewed with him the organisation's activities in the Arab and Islamic World.

The meeting, which was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Awn Khasawneh, His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, the King's Cultural Secretary, and Minister of Higher Education Abdullah Ensour followed the signing in Amman earlier Tuesday of an agreement between ISESCO and the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bayt Foundation) dealing with cooperation in the dissemination of Islamic culture.

The agreement which was signed by Al al Bayt Foundation President Nasseredin Al Assad and Dr Tweijri aims at correcting misconceptions about Islam and the Muslims' culture .

Under the agreement, the two sides pledge to conduct joint studies and research, issue publications about Islamic history and culture, encourage young scholars to produce creative work in Islamic literature, support dialogue among various cultures and religions, and help draw together the followers of various Islamic sects.

The two institutions agreed to work together to fund and produce an Islamic cultural encyclopedia, to cooperate in media affairs, exchange publications and printed materials as well as expertise, hold seminars and conduct research and studies and organise the translation of books and manuscripts .

The two sides agreed on setting up a mechanism to follow up on the implementation of the agreement through a joint committee that will meet alternately once a year in Amman and Rabat.

Education For All conference debates best ways for enhancing basic education

By Haya Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Open debate sessions dominated activities at the Mid-Decade Meeting of the International Consultative Forum on Education For All in Amman yesterday.

Sessions centred on issues such as governments and external partners in developing basic education, delivering basic education in situations of crisis, building partnerships between the government and civil society for the provision of basic education, promoting basic education for girls and women, and educational research in a review of progress made since the World Conference on Education For All in Jomtien, Thailand.

Six years ago, in Jomtien 155 governments pledged to ensure equal and easy access to education to all children and adults and to eradicate illiteracy by the year 2000.

In an afternoon session on educational research, Victor Billeh from the National Centre for Human Resources and Development outlined Jordan's progress in monitoring learning achievements and in establishing an educational management information system for policy-makers. The "critical factors" resulting from this type of monitoring would then be basic information to be drawn into the pedagogical content of teacher-training programmes.

Earlier, Dr. Billeh spoke of Jordan's current focus on quality as its major issue, with emphasis on the performance of teachers.

Jordan set an educational reform agenda in 1987, well before Jomtien with a ten-year comprehensive plan that integrated focus on pre-school education, primary education, non-formal education, as well as improving curricula and providing moral and material incentives to teachers.

In the open dialogue on education in crisis situations, delegates discussed the victimisation of education in situations of armed conflict, the mobilisation of resources and their efficient use, and the role of the media, especially radio, in disseminating educational programmes for children and the youth.

Countries such as Palestine, Afghanistan and Bosnia addressed the issue of education as a foundation for development under political, social and economic transition.

"The demand for education from people in crisis situations is naturally high," said Said Assaf, director-general for training and supervision at the Palestinian ministry of education.

Displaced people and people in political transition seek to better their livelihoods by building secure foundations for education, he said.

But in spite of an educational system that is qualitatively "not bad", problems do remain as the system in the self-rule areas still suffers from rote-learning methodologies, text-dependency and other negative trends that result from a scattering of people and an inconsistent curriculum, according to Mr. Assaf.

Currently in the self-rule areas, efforts are being exerted towards the construction of school buildings and the restoration of damaged ones, investments in training for teachers, principals and educational supervisors, and work on a new national curriculum has already started, he said.

Mr. Assaf pointed out the difficulties involved in the accessibility of basic education in a country where people are not able to move freely to schools due to security closures and road blocks preventing students and teachers alike from reaching their schools.

The open dialogue on delivering basic education in situations of crisis ended with several recommendations, one of which requested that all schools be declared "untouchable" areas, marked out as safety zones during and after armed conflicts.



Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat (centre) Tuesday chairs the opening session of a workshop on biodiversity in Jordan (Petra photo)

Environment degradation threatens Kingdom's fauna, flora —Tubeishat

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat told the opening session of a two-day workshop on biodiversity in Jordan Tuesday that a number of animal and plant species in Jordan are threatened with extinction largely due to the deterioration of the environment.

The environmental deterioration is mainly caused by building operations, expansion of cities, construction of roads and random and unorthodox town planning that have no regard of the environment, the minister said. He added said that throughout history Jordan has been home for a great variety of plants and animals of different kinds .

Since pollution to the environment is an international issue and knows no boundaries, Jordan has been intensifying cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other concerned organisations and governments to deal with the problem and has signed various world covenants on this issue to protect the earth and its natural resources, the minister noted.

Dr. Saleh Al Share', director general of the Environment Protection Corporation, told the meeting that his office has launched the biodiversity study of various forms of life in Jordan and plans to work out a national strategy aimed at implementing international agreements by recruiting and training qualified personnel in cooperation with the UNEP.

The head of the corporation's nature protection department, Khalaf Al Oqla, said that the national study on biodiversity in Jordan entails collecting information about all forms of plants and animals and dangers threatening their existence and priority programmes to protect them.

He said that 54 experts have been working on this study which is expected to be completed in a few months in close cooperation with the UNEP.

2 convicts hanged at Swaqa prison

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two men convicted of murder in two separate cases were hanged at Swaqa prison south of Amman at dawn Tuesday. They were the sixth and seventh to be executed this year.

Mohammad Ra'ed Mahmoud, 21, was sentenced to death by the Amman Criminal Court for the murder of his 70-year-old neighbour Ezieh Nabulsi at her Jabal Taj home in Sept. 1995.

According to court documents, Mahmoud, who was engaged to one of the victim's grand-daughters, said he killed Mrs. Nabulsi during an attempt to burglarise her because he thought that the victim was keeping money in her house.

On Sept. 5, the day of the murder, Mahmoud made his way into the victim's house and stabbed her once in the back while she ascended the stairs, and when she fell down he stabbed her 20 times in the chest and face, the prosecution said.

The convict then searched the victim's house and could find only JD 7.5.

The other convict executed Tuesday was Nimer Ahmad Faris, 19, who was found guilty by the same court of killing his brother-in-law Jamil Azam, 55, in August 1994 on a farm in Neimeh village near Irbid over family feuds.

According to the prosecution, the convict's sister, Hanieh, often quarrelled with her husband (the victim), and plotted to kill him with the help of brother.

On Aug. 17, the night of the murder, after the three had dinner and went to sleep, the brother and sister struck the victim on the head several times with a meat cleaver, dragged his body outside, dug a whole and buried him.

Hanieh, was also convicted of killing her husband and was sentenced to death last year by the criminal court. But when the sentence was reviewed by the Court of Cassation, it decided to commute the sentence to 15-years imprisonment because she was a mother of four children.

A Royal Decree was issued last month, approving the death sentences after the cases were reviewed by the Court of Cassation which ratified the ruling of the criminal court.

On May 11, three convicts were hanged at the same prison. Two of the three convicts were hanged for raping two girls under the age of 15. The third convict, an Iraqi national, was executed for raping and killing an Iraqi women.

In 1995, eight people were executed for various crimes in the Kingdom.



Minister of Education Munther Masri Tuesday inspects Tawjihi examination halls on the first day of the end of year session (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Universities to introduce entrance exams next year

AMMAN (Petra) — Universities will, starting next year, organise entrance exams for students who pass Tawjihi examinations, Minister of Education Munther Masri announced Tuesday.

Acceptance of students at universities will be based on a mixed rating of 25 per cent for the entrance exams and 75 per cent for the Tawjihi's, said the minister during an inspection tour of examination halls where Tawjihi students were taking the first examination in the end-of-year session.

Tawjihi students will as of next year sit only once, at the end of the year, for a one session exam instead of the two at the moment.

Dr. Masri noted during the visit that students who fail in certain subjects will be allowed to sit for make-up examinations in the same courses and according to the current curricula at the end of the coming year.

Dr Masri said as of Thursday 6,500 teachers start marking the students' papers and evaluating their results at centres set up in Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Balqa , Karak and Maan.

For two weeks 96,888 students will be sitting for their examinations in different streams set by the Ministry of Education under the supervision of 13,500 teachers.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

*"Farinelli" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

BRITISH WEEK

*British Lifestyle Exhibition at the Forte Grand Hotel until June 19.

LECTURES

*Lecture entitled "La Chanson Francaise" by Par Alexi Fitta at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

*"The Future of Islam in the Next Century (Arabic) by Dr. Yousef Al Qardawi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

*Display of hand-made carpets by Mas'ad Basha at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (Tel. 639303), until June 27.

*Abstract (plastic) art by Arab women artists at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until June 4.

*Furniture exhibition at Amman International Exhibit, Marj Al Hamam, until June 20.

*Fine arts exhibition entitled "What About Figures" by Noelle Shawa at Concept for Consultancy Quarters (Tel. 815-384), until June 30.

* Works by contemporary Arab artists at Darat Al Funoun, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 30.

* Photography exhibit by American photographer George Vass entitled "Passage Across the Jordan" at the American Centre, until June 23.

* Works by Rafic Majzoub at the French Cultural Centre, until June 27.

* Works by Ahmad Nawash at the Jordan Plastic Arts Association, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 29 (Tel. 623297).

Netanyahu government gets off to a shaky start

(Continued from page 1)

address to the Knesset Tuesday, Mr. Netanyahu stressed his willingnesss to push on with the peace process.

"I call for peace with all Arab leaders and I call to our close neighbours, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Lebanese President (Elias) Hrawi And King Fahd of Saudi Arabia ... Let's have direct negotiations for peace that will enable the Middle East to advance to a period of stability," he said.

"There are no pre-conditions, that is the key. Each side can come up with its own stand without forcing the other side to agree to its conditions," he added.

But harking back to his campaign theme, Mr. Netanyahu insisted that "security is the most important thing in order to continue on the path of peace."

"For the last few years there has been a deterioration in the security situation in Israel and on its borders," he said. "In order to stop this deterioration, we will have to fight and battle terrorism and anyone that takes up the banner of terrorism will meet a tough reaction."

Turning to the Palestinians, Mr. Netanyahu said he was willing to pursue negotiations on a permanent peace settlement on condition the self-rule authority headed by Yasser Arafat fights anti-Israeli violence.

"Those who are talking with us, if they want to reach a peace agreement then they must live up to all agreements or they must know the Israeli army and security forces will be free to act against terrorism," he said.

"To widen the circle of peace with all our neighbours...Is a primary goal of the government," Mr. Netanyahu said. But he said that more emphasis on security was necessary in order to reach "a stable and viable peace, not a passing and temporary agreement."

In the May 29 election, Mr. Netanyahu narrowly edged out Mr. Peres, whose popularity plummeted after a series of suicide bombings by militants that killed 63 people in February and March.

Mr. Netanyahu's speech was repeatedly interrupted with protests by Israeli-Arab lawmaker Abdul Wahab Darawsheh, but his words could not be distinguished.

As Mr. Netanyahu spoke, Mr. Levy acted as his emissary trying to work out an agreement with Mr. Sharon that would enable the former defence minister to join his government.

Angry at being denied the coveted defence or finance portfolios, Mr. Sharon held out for a day before accepting Mr. Netanyahu's offer of the housing portfolio on Monday – only to discover it had been handed to the United Torah Judaism religious party.

FOLLOWING IS the list of ministers in the coalition government presented to the Israeli parliament Tuesday by Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu:

Prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and housing: Benyamin Netanyahu (Likud Party)
Agriculture and environment: Rafael Eytan (Tsomet)
Education and religious affairs: Zevulun Hammer (National Religious Party)
Defence: Yitzhak Mordehai (Likud)
Finance: Dan Meridor (Likud)
Interior: Eli Suissa (Shas)
Tourism: Moshe Katzav (Likud)
Internal security: Avigdor Kahalani (Third Way)
Trade and industry: Natan Sharansky (Israel B'aliya)
Immigration: Yuli Edelstein (Israel B'aliya)
Health: Tsahi Hanegbi (Likud)
Justice: Yaakov Neeman (Independent)
Telecommunications: Limor Livnat (Likud)
Science and technology: Benjamin "Benny" Begin (Likud)
Transport and energy: Yitzhak Levy (National Religious Party)
Labour and social affairs: Eli Yishai (Shas)
The 66-member coalition is made up of six parties:
Likud-Gesher-Tsomet: 32 seats
Shas: 10 seats
National Religious Party: 9 seats
Israel B'aliya: 7 seats
United Torah Judaism: 4 seats
The Third Way: 4 seats
Deputy Prime Ministers:
Moshe Katsav, Rafael Eitan, Zevelun Hammer.

Kabariti holds talks in Bahrain after UAE visit

(Continued from page 1)

aimed at damaging the security and stability of Bahrain."

GNA added that Mr. Kabariti "renewed the support of his country for Bahrain against these criminal plots."

Bahrain accused Iran on June 3 of working to topple the government by financing a militant group called Hizbollah-Bahrain. It announced the arrests of militants linked to the alleged plot.

Iran has fiercely denied the charges.

Jordanian officials recently said they and Bahrain plan to ask Syria at the Cairo summit about alleged backing of attempts of sabotage in the Kingdom.

A Jordanian official said Mr. Kabariti's Gulf tour was to "coordinate positions" ahead of the Cairo summit.

Accompanying the prime minister are Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb and Minister of State Mohammad Njadat.

2 more black churches burnt down in U.S. south

CORINTH, Miss. (R) — Two black churches in northeastern Mississippi were destroyed by fire late Monday, police said, adding to a wave of suspicious church blazes that has swept the south of the United States.

Arson investigators combed through the ruins of the two sanctuaries late into the night to determine if the incidents were linked to fires that have occurred at 34 other black churches in the south over the past 18 months.

The 109-year-old Mount Pleasant Missionary Church and the Central Grove Church were completely destroyed by fires that authorities labeled as suspicious. The churches were located a few miles from each other, just south of the Tennessee border near the town of Kossuth.

Police said hundreds of onlookers, many in tears or uttering prayers, stood in the sultry Mississippi night air and watched the sanctuaries burn as volunteer firefighters waged a futile battle to put out the flames.

The fires were reported to police by telephone calls to the 911 emergency number. The calls came about 15 minutes apart, the first at 9:11 p.m. local time.

"It seems extremely suspicious that two churches would burn at the same time, both of them having black congregations," said Alcorn County Sheriff Jimmy Taylor.

Police quickly called on the FBI, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office to help determine the cause of the fires.

Sheriff Taylor said results of the investigation would be announced Tuesday morning. "If we find out that it's arson, we are going to stick together as a community and bring the people responsible to justice," the sheriff said.

The two blazes raise to 36 the number of black churches damaged or destroyed by fire in the south since late 1994. Churches have burned in North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, Georgia and Texas.

Earlier Monday, arson investigators sifted through the remains of a predominantly black church in Rocky Point, North Carolina. It was the second black church to burn in the state in less than a week.

The fires have revived memories of the Ku Klux Klan firebombings of black churches in the 1960s and have stirred up a simmering debate about whether the blazes are the deliberate work of racist groups or of copycat arsonists.

President Bill Clinton plans to meet with the governors of the affected states Wednesday to coordinate a strategy for battling the outbreak.

Meanwhile, leaders of the white conservative Christian Coalition were due to meet with the pastors of burned black churches Tuesday in Atlanta.

Although investigators say some fires have been racially motivated, there has been no evidence of coordinated activity among hate groups.

Two whites arrested for setting fires at black churches — a volunteer fireman in Alabama and a 13-year-old girl in North Carolina — were apparently not motivated by racism.

Officials in Mississippi's Alcorn County were quick to defend what they called model race relations in their community, where about 12 per cent of the population is black. The predominantly white electorate of Corinth, the county seat, has twice elected a black man as mayor, they noted.

But police said a handful of local residents did attend a Ku Klux Klan rally held a few months ago by a travelling Klan organisation from Arkansas.



Officials from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms dig through the burned-out rubble of the The Pine Lake Baptist Church, investigating the cause of the suspicious church burning Sunday in Stone Mountain. The section of the church destroyed was the old sanctuary now used as the Sunday school and youth centre (Reuter photo)

Dole, gaining in polls, slams Clinton in California

WALNUT CREEK, California (R) — Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole stepped up criticism Monday of the White House procurement of FBI files, and accused President Bill Clinton of conducting a "a war on California."

"President Clinton's policies amount to nothing less than a war on California," Sen. Dole told a sunny rally at a local park, before revealing the logic behind his second trip to the state in three weeks.

"He (Clinton) cannot win the presidency without winning California, so let's win California," Sen. Dole said.

California, with 54 electoral votes, is regarded as essential to Mr. Clinton's reelection chances, which Mr. Clinton has underscored with numerous visits to the state throughout his presidency.

By campaigning here, Sen. Dole can pin Mr. Clinton down and prevent him from expending energies in other states that Sen. Dole can capture, the Republican's strategists have said.

The file fiasco and improved polls kept the Dole campaign upbeat as it travelled to the west coast. At a refueling stop in Rockford, Illinois, Sen. Dole told reporters the race was tightening.

"Polls are polls but they all show that we're closing the gap," Sen. Dole told the CBS affiliate in Rockford. "I think the race is tightening up."

The presumed Republican presidential nominee had been trailing Mr. Clinton by 15-20 percentage points, but last week a series of new polls showed he had cut that lead, in one case to as few as six percentage points.

Sen. Dole said themes such as lower taxes, a balanced budget and welfare reform were "beginning to resonate with people" and his formal departure from the Senate on June 11 to concentrate on campaigning was starting to pay off.

In attacking Mr. Clinton over the FBI files, Sen. Dole said seasoned political operatives, not mistaken bureaucrats as the White House had implied, were responsible for obtaining FBI files on several prominent Republicans.

He said the file issue was the most important development in ethical controversies surrounding Mr. Clinton.

Sen. Dole told supporters at the Walnut Creek rally that California had been hurt under the Clinton administration by higher taxes, lax enforcement of drug laws, and defence reductions that cut jobs in the state's defence industry and undermined national security.

White House reshuffles security office in wake of FBI file scandal

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The head of the White House security office that gathered FBI files on hundreds of people, including key Republicans, is being put on leave, an administration official said Monday.

"We are undertaking a review of how security operations are organised at the White House with a view toward accomplishing a restructuring that will restore confidence in the integrity of this process at the White House," White House counsel Jack Quinn told CNN Television.

Craig Livingstone, the supervisor of the office "will be on administrative leave as this review is conducted and until such time as the incident in question is clarified to the satisfaction of the chief of staff," Mr. Quinn said.

"This is not a punitive measure, this is not a disciplinary action. This is an action that Mr. Livingstone has asked U.S. to take," Mr. Quinn said. Mr. Livingstone will still receive his pay during his leave.

It was the first official announcement of a personnel change stemming from the affair. Earlier in the day, White House spokesman Michael McCurry told the press that no reshuffling was being considered.

The White House has been embroiled in "filegate," as the scandal has been dubbed, since it broke last week.

President Bill Clinton has apologised for the incident which involves more than 400 Federal Bureau of Investigation files the White House sought in 1993.

But he dismissed the incident as an innocent bureaucratic mix up resulting from the use of an outdated list for background checks.

Mr. Livingstone is a political employee who has long-time ties to the Democratic Party. His political links have fostered allegations from the opposition that the White House possession of the files was more than an innocent mistake.

Mr. Quinn said "the likelihood is that the restructuring we have in mind will be made in an effort to ensure that career employees are operating this office."

In an unusually harsh report Friday, FBI Director Louis Freeh called the acquistion of files on top members of the two previous Republican administrations an "egregious violation of privacy," in an election year, the opposition has been quick to grab at the issue.

"They're going to have a lot of explaining to do," said Bob Dole, the 72-year-old legislative veteran who left his post as Senate leader last week to campaign full time against Mr. Clinton.

Aung San Suu Kyi's bodyguard arrested

RANGOON (R) — One of Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's bodyguards was arrested after he left Ms. Suu Kyi's residence last week, an opposition source said Tuesday.

An official with Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party told Reuters Hlaing Eva was arrested after he left Ms. Suu Kyi's Rangoon compound Thursday.

"He went out to the bazaar at around 8 p.m. (1400 GMT), and he was arrested," the NLD official said.

He said Hlaing Eva, one of Ms. Suu Kyi's many NLD bodyguards, has not been heard from and the party does not know if he has been charged or where he is being held.

The NLD official also said two of Ms. Suu Kyi's personal assistants, Win Htein and Aye Win, were still being held by the military government.

Win Htein and Aye Win were two of more than 250 NLD members who were arrested by the military government last month in a sweeping crackdown against democracy politicians ahead of a controversial congress of senior NLD members.

Many of those who were arrested have since been freed but several dozen remain in custody, NLD sources said.

Meanwhile the Burmese army is forcing thousands of villagers from their homes in the hills of eastern Burma's Kayah state in an attempt to isolate ethnic minority guerrillas in the area, opposition sources said Tuesday.

"So far 96 villages have been forced to relocate," Teddy Buri, an ethnic Karenni member of Burma's exiled opposition told Reuters.

He estimated the total number of people ordered from their homes was about 10,000.

Refugee workers on the Thai-Burmese border said more than 1,000 villagers had defied the Burmese army order to move to areas near garrison towns in eastern Burma's Kayah state and fled to the frontier in recent weeks.

"It's related to the forced relocation of the villages," one worker said of the most recent wave of people to arrive on the border. "We're expecting more."

The opposition sources said Burmese army patrols began posting notices in the Karenni villages last month ordering the inhabitants to move by early June.

"Those who refuse to move will be categorised as insurgents and shot on sight," Mr. Teddy Buri said.

Separatist guerrillas of the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) have recently operated in the area of the relocation after losing their bases up against the Thai border in the face of a Burmese army offensive.

A KNPP official, speaking from northern Thailand on the border with Burma, said Karenni guerrillas had launched a series of attacks and had managed to blow up a water pipeline at the Lawpita Hydropower Station on June 6.

The villagers ordered to move are mostly on the west bank of the Salween River and they have been told to relocate to the government-controlled towns of Shadaw and Ywathit.

Dublin challenges Sinn Fein on IRA

DUBLIN (R) — The Irish government tightened the screws on Sinn Fein Tuesday by demanding that it make a clean break with the guerrilla violence of its IRA allies or risk being cast into the cold.

It wrote to Sinn Fein, which seeks the end of British rule of Northern Ireland, challenging the party to spell out whether it supported the "armed struggle" waged by the IRA following a weekend bomb in Manchester which injured more than 200.

The letter also asked Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams to say whether he had approached his Irish Republican Army (IRA) allies to seek a restoration of its broken 17-month ceasefire.

"In the past Mr. Gerry Adams accused the British government of embracing the rhetoric of peacemaking but avoiding the real challenges," a government spokesman said. "The real challenge now for Mr. Adams himself is to answer two simple questions.

"1) Has he yet gone to the IRA to ask for a ceasefire, and if not, why? 2) Does his party continue to support the "armed struggle' of the IRA?" he said.

A spokesman for Mr. Adams said the government knew Sinn Fein's position and "its efforts to restore the peace process."

Details of the letter were made public as the cabinet met to review calls for a breaking off of all links with Sinn Fein to punish Mr. Adams for the weekend bombing and the IRA murder of an Irish policeman in the southern town of Adare this month.

They were published as Northern Ireland Protestant guerrillas, the IRA's arch-foes, warned that their own unbroken ceasefire was at risk if the IRA continued its campaign.

Government sources said the cabinet was considering whether to break off links with Sinn Fein which were downgraded from ministerial to official-level encounters when the IRA resumed its operations in February.

Calls for a complete break were led by Mary Harney, leader of the Progressive Democrat Party, following public outrage at the Manchester bombing and the Adare murder.

"The vast majority of people agree with what I am saying. They are fed up with Sinn Fein," she told Irish Radio.

But she was opposed by Bertie Ahern, leader of Fianna Fail who argued that isolating Sinn Fein again would bring a Northern Ireland peace no nearer.

Bosnia, Chechenya and Turkey fuel violations of human rights in Europe

LONDON (AFP) — Armed conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chechenya and Turkey "continued to be the major source of massive human rights violations in Europe," the international human rights organisation Amnesty International said in its latest annual report published Tuesday.

Amnesty also said that "torture or ill-treatment by security forces were carried out in most of the countries in the region."

In Bosnia, Bosnian Serb forces "abducted" thousands of civilians, "many of whom were believed to have been deliberately and arbitrarily killed," the London-based human rights group said.

The group added that "civilians were deliberately targeted by artillery, mortar or sniper fire, mainly by Bosnian Serb forces."

It raised "concern about a lack of commitment on the part of the Multinational Implementation Force (IFOR) to seek out and detain individuals indicted by the international criminal tribunal for the former Yougoslavia."

Human rights observers said that in Croatia, a large number of Serbs who remained in the Krajina region after the area was retaken by Croatian forces in August 1995 were "tortured, ill-treated or forcibly expelled."

Amnesty said that "scores of people were extrajudicially executed by Croatian Armed Forces in the Krajina region and Croatian Serb civilians were deliberately targetted by Croatian forces."

The group painted an equally grisly picture of human rights abuses in Russia after Russian troops moved into the self-proclaimed Chechen Republic.

Atrocities catalogued there included "possible indiscriminate killing of civilians, extrajudicial executions, torture and ill-treatment, and detention without trial."

Forces from rebel Chechen ranks were also implicated in human rights abuses.

Amnesty said that "in June, forces loyal to Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev were reported to have killed at least 40 civilians and taken hundreds hostage in the town of Budennovsk".

The group also condemned human rights abuses in Turkey, where government troops have mounted successive operations against independence fighters from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

Amnesty said that the conflict claimed 4,000 lives last year, of which a number were civilians. It included a number of "political killings" of those who opposed the government's policies towards the Kurds.

Amnesty said that villagers from PKK strongholds suffered a number of "disappearances in the course of security raids" by government soldiers. It added that the PKK itself committed at least 60 "deliberate and arbitrary" murders.

Asia/Pacific

A darker side exists behind the Asia-Pacific region's image of dynamic "tiger" economies: One of torture, illegal executions and "disappearances," amnesty said Tuesday.

"Behind the Asia/Pacific's image of economic dynamism, governments in the region were responsible in 1995 for torturing, extrajudicially executing, "disappearing" and executing their citizens, while thousands remained incarcerated after unfair trials", Amnesty said.

The human rights monitor said that torture and ill-treatment, often leading to deaths in custody, occurred throughout the region, with thousands of victims reported from Afghanistan to Australia.

As civil war raged in Afghanistan, "hundreds of cases of torture, including rape", were reported. Opposition groups in this country committed "human rights abuses on a massive scale", with women, children and the elderly among the 1,000 documented victims.

These groups were "also responsible for cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments including amputations and stonings", Amnesty said.

In China, "torture of political and criminal detainees remained widespread, often to force confessions, or to intimidate and punish prisoners, with many victims tortured with electro-shock weapons."

In Burma, "more than 1,300 prisoners died as a result of illness and ill-treatment when they were forced to work on road building projects."

In Pakistan, "at least 70 people died as a result of torture, which the police often tried to disguise as suicide."

Prisoners also died through ill-treatment in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and India.

Amnesty International has documented cases of at least 5,000 prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience in 18 countries in this region, although it believes the actual figure is much higher.

More than 2,200 of these are imprisoned in China, and at least 1,000 in Afghanistan.

Americas

Amnesty charged countries of the Americas Tuesday with failing to live up to their promises to improve human rights last year.

"The gap between what most governments of the region say and what they do to change the human rights situation widened," Amnesty said in its annual report.

"While the language of human rights has been universally adopted by the institutions of the states, human rights violations are still taking place throughout the region."

Extrajudicial executions and disappearances occurred in 16 countries, with at least 1,000 in Colombia, hundreds in Brazil and more than 150 in Guatemala by security forces or government-backed groups.

Venezuela and Nicaragua were also singled out.

Torture and ill-treatment were widespread in almost all countries of the region, Amnesty said.

In the United States, Amnesty referred to deaths in police custody in disputed circumstances and widespread allegations of torture and ill-treatement by police and prison officers.

Prison conditions were appalling in some countries — Haiti and Venezuela — and poor in many others, including Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Paraguay, Amnesty said. It noted in particular the reintroduction of chain-gangs in the prisons of several U.S. states.

Africa

Wars and human rights abuses across Africa increased the number of refugees and displaced persons in the continent to more than 8.5 million, Amnesty International said.

Last year tens of thousands more joined those who had already fled ethnic conflicts in Burundi, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan, causing further tensions in host countries such as Tanzania and Zaire.

Civil wars and political rivalry led to an increase in murders, disappearances and other human rights abuses, encouraged by widespread impunity, Amnesty said.

"The proliferation of armed groups and the complex nature of their relationship to state forces did not allow for a clear distinction between armed opposition groups and governmental agents," the report noted.

In at least 24 countries women and children suffered in particular from abuse.

Divorce bill passes British parliament

LONDON (R) — A bitterly contested bill ending quick divorces, which threatened to weaken Prime Minister John Major's shaky hold on power even further, passed through parliament with a large government majority late Monday. At present a couple may be granted a divorce after 12 months only if one party admits fault. Under the new bill, "no fault" divorces will be allowed after a period of 18 months. Separated couples will also be encouraged to go for marriage counselling and mediation. Divorces will still be granted after one year for couples who have no children under 16 and where both parties consent to the divorce or if there is a clear case of domestic violence. To win the final 427 to 9 vote the government had to make concessions both to right-wing Conservatives who saw the bill as too liberal and to Labour opposition MPs who wanted changes to protect children and battered women.

Man forsakes 8 daughters for new-born son

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian father handed over his eight daughters to the police so he could devote himself to raising his long-awaited baby boy, newspapers reported. They said 50-year-old Sayed Abdul Fatah Ali dragged his wife and daughters, aged one to 17, to the police station where he abandoned them. He also threatened to divorce the mother if she returned home with her daughters who say he mistreated them, the newspapers said. Police have a warrant for his arrest.

Burglars raid impotence clinic

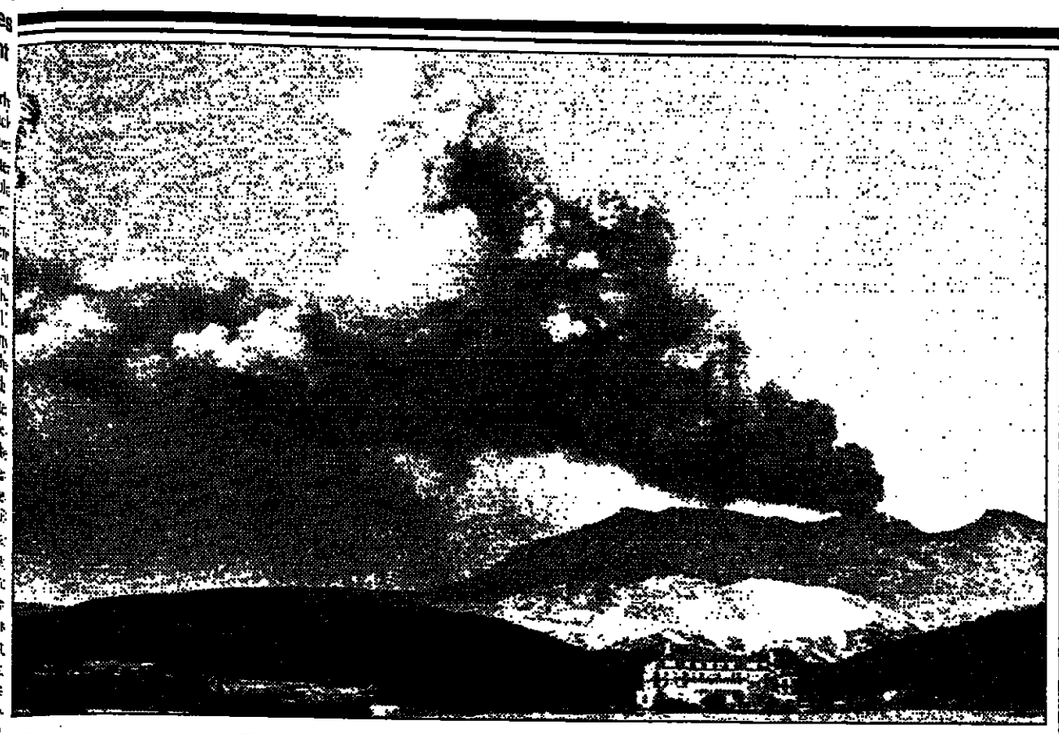
CANBERRA (R) — Burglars who raided an impotence clinic in the Australian city of Melbourne last weekend may have grabbed more than they can handle — drugs that cause five-day erections, police said. "We are looking for someone who is very embarrassed or very tired," a police spokesman told Reuters. The thieves took dozens of bottles of several different drugs used to treat impotence during a weekend break-in at the clinic in the bayside suburb of Seaford. The drugs, which can cause an erection lasting up to five days, are not fatal.

Veggie bus driver sues over burger coupon firing

LOS ANGELES (R) — A vegetarian bus driver fired for refusing to hand out hamburger coupons to passengers has filed a lawsuit alleging he was unfairly dismissed and discriminated against because of his beliefs. Bruce Anderson had been employed as a bus driver for the Orange County Transit Authority (OCTA) for five years. As part of a campaign between the OCTA and a hamburger chain, he had been asked to hand out coupons for hamburgers to passengers.

Chinese city regulates scavengers

SHANGHAI (AFP) — A city in China's northern Shandong province has started issuing work permits to scavengers to protect its clean and tidy image, a newspaper reported Monday. The Wenhui Bao Daily reported that Yantai began regulating more than 600 people who eked out a living collecting litter in the streets of the beautiful coastal city in May when they strewed litter around dustbins. Yantai Environment and Sanitation Departments took the initiative to manage the collectors by requiring them to register for work permits and to wear uniforms.



Mount Ruapehu, in New Zealand's central North Island, erupts over the Grand Chateau Hotel with plumes of ash and rock Monday, after months of silence forcing aviation authorities to declare a danger zone. There was no threat to life from the eruption, the second in ten months, but businesses were concerned about the impact on ski resorts for the second successive season (Reuter photo)

N. Zealand eruption closes country's main airport

AUCKLAND (AFP) — Ash fallout from the Mount Ruapehu triggered chaos in New Zealand late Tuesday, causing the sudden closure of the country's main international and domestic airport.

Airliners from Fiji and Australia were already heading for Auckland Airport when they were turned back after drifting ash crossed flight paths over a large area of the northern half of the country's North Island.

Ruapehu burst back into life Monday after going quiet following eruptions last year.

Although the scale of eruptions this week is not as great, the problems caused by the ash cloud, drifting due north onto Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, were much worse.

The Civil Aviation Authority late Tuesday extended its danger area, which effectively closed Auckland and Hamilton airports as darkness fell after the huge ash plume spread further north.

International flights between Rarotonga, Cook Islands and New Zealand were warned that the ash cloud was drifting over the sea northeast of New Zealand, but no airlines had so far reported encountering ash there, the authority said.

Meanwhile ash, rocks, gases and steam continued to spew from the mountain Tuesday after putting on a tempestuous display overnight.

Scientists who made an observation flight over the mountain Tuesday maintained the mountain's alert status at three — meaning significant local activity and the possibility of larger eruptions.

Ski field operators hope that the ski season due to open this weekend can go ahead, at least on the south side of the mountain, which at the moment is unaffected by ash.

Turoa Skifield Company management remained confident its southern slopes would be in good shape for its planned ski season to kick off Saturday.

The northern slopes are covered in ash and will not open.

Despite this, the volcano is drawing thousands of tourists from around the world, providing some compensation for those tourist operators likely to miss out from fewer skiers.



A snowboarder, seemingly oblivious to the danger, slides down the slopes of Mount Ruapehu against a backdrop of plumes of volcanic ash Tuesday. The country's largest active volcano burst into life two days ago filling the air with ash (Reuter photo)

Chechen rebels truce is huge boost for Yeltsin

SOUTHERN CHECHNYA, Russia (AFP) — Independence fighters in Chechenya say they will refrain from any armed action until the second round of the Russian presidential election, giving a huge boost to President Boris Yeltsin.

The rebels' chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov said Monday, "we have decided to wait so as not to risk a resumption of hostilities and threaten the accord" signed on June 10 between the guerrillas and Russia.

That agreement covered the setting up of a ceasefire which had come into effect on June 1.

Maskhadov recalled that his fighters had done nothing to disrupt the local and presidential elections held in Chechenya from Thursday through Sunday in order, he said, "to show the entire world who wants really to end the war, who really wants peace."

Observers in the field said the vote had apparently been manipulated and had been a parody of democracy. The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) condemned it late Monday.

The rebel decision, which Maskhadov said had been transmitted to all units in the field, can only help Mr. Yeltsin, whose decision to order troops into Chechenya to crush the separatist rebellion in December 1994 made him hugely unpopular in Russia.

The June 10 agreement signed in Nazran, in the neighbouring Republic of Ingushetia, boosted Mr. Yeltsin's chances for last Sunday's presidential elections, which he finished three points ahead of his main rival, Communist Gennady Ziuganov.

Mr. Maskhadov denied he wanted to help Mr. Yeltsin in the second run-off round, which is expected to take place on July 3.

"Whether Yeltsin or Ziuganov wins, it is all the same to us," he said. "Russia's Chechenya policy will stay the same — they will only make peace when they realise there is no other solution."

However Zelimkhan Yandarbayev, who became "president" of the Chechens' self-declared state after the death of Dzhokar Dudayev on April 21, seems to have done his best to aid Mr. Yeltsin.

On May 27 he set the peace ball rolling when he went to the Kremlin to meet Mr. Yeltsin and agreed on a ceasefire, thereby also strengthening his own position. But Mr. Yandarbayev is taking a gamble.

"Many of us have our doubts," said an aide to Mr. Maskhadov. "They think that neither Mr. Yeltsin nor Mr. Ziuganov intends to withdraw Russian troops from Chechenya" by Aug. 31, as laid down in the Nazran agreement.

"But no one has spoken openly against Mr. Yandarbayev because he is our president."

In fact the Nazran accord has already been broken by the Russians and their own government in Chechenya.

The agreement provided for the postponement of local elections until after the departure of Russian troops, but the polls went ahead last weekend.

It also said that Russian military checkpoints, hated by many Chechens as the symbol of an occupying power, should be gradually removed. But the number of controls increased during the elections amid fears of a separatist attack.

Finally, Mr. Maskhadov should have met Russian Armed Forces Commander General Vincheslav Tikhomirov to decide how Russian troops should be withdrawn. That meeting has yet to take place, the two sides having failed to agree on a venue.

The OSCE said in a statement issued Monday that it had protested to Russia over the local elections in Chechenya, which were in contradiction with the Nazran agreement and were not free and fair.

"Only the active support of all parties implied in the peace process could lead to a settlement of the conflict in the near future," the OSCE said.

Mr. Maskhadov said that after the second round the Chechens would know whether the Russian authorities really wanted to end the war. "For the moment it is too soon to tell," he said.

BNP offers freedom to Ershad in effort to block League

DHAKA (AFP) — Jailed former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad was offered freedom Tuesday and his wife the prime ministership in efforts by the former ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party to prevent the Awami League from forming a new government, a senior official source said.

But Gen. Ershad, who has already thrown his Jatiya Party's support to the Awami League, said he would not accept parole offered by the former rulers and would wait for courts to decide his fate, a party source said.

Gen. Ershad is serving a 13-year jail term for graft and he has appealed his covictions to the Supreme Court.

His wife, Raushan, met with Bangladeshi President Abdur Rahman Biswas, leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which promised her the prime ministership if her party joined with BNP to form a new government, a senior official source told AFP.

He also offered parole to her husband, the source said.

"The president has signed the parole order and it was (now pending) with the caretaker government chief," one senior official source told AFP, without elaborating.

But JP sources said Gen. Ershad would not deal with the BNP, which he blamed for jailing him and blocking his release before the elections.

In addition, former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has reportedly met with some pro-BNP Jatiya leaders, promising them benefits if they could bring the JP over to the BNP.

Despite the manoeuvrings, Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League appears to be set to form a new government and make Mrs. Hasina the prime minister.

The league emerged as the single largest party in the 300-member parliament in last week's crucial general elections and still has an outside chance for an absolute majority when repolling in 27 constituencies is held Wednesday.

But even without a majority, the support of the Jatiya Party should be enough for it to form a new government.

Mrs. Hasina made her first contact with President Biswas by telephone late Monday, informing him of her readiness to form the government, but the president said he could only invite her to do so once the repolling was over, officials said.

Mrs. Hasina was quoted by the Independent newspaper Tuesday as saying she would not seek revenge against the killers of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Book: Benito Mussolini was shot dead in a pigsty

ROME (R) — The author of a new book on the death of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini claimed Monday that Il Duce was shot dead in a pigsty by a partisan commander who went on to become Italy's Communist Party chief.

"Mussolini's final five seconds" by Giorgio Pisano, a World War II fascist fighter, seemed certain to revive controversy over the circumstances surrounding the death of the dictator and his mistress Claretta Petacci on April 28, 1945.

It has led to calls for the heirs of Italy's Communist Party, the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), to open its archives to help historians finally resolve the mystery.

Official resistance accounts say Mussolini was executed "in the name of the Italian people" by the late Walter Audisio, a partisan known as "Colonel Valerio," at the gates of a villa at Giulino Di Mezzegra overlooking Lake Como in northern Italy.

Pisano's book, to be published Tuesday, claims the man who pulled the trigger was Luigi Longo, a partisan commander who went on to head the Communist Party from 1964 until 1972.

It says Longo, who died in 1980, travelled to Lake Como from Milan as soon as he got word of Mussolini's capture and killed him seven hours before staging an execution with the corpse.

"The Communist Party wanted Il Duce dead," Pisano said. "They invented the story of Walter Audisio...to keep Longo out of it."

According to Pisano, the National Liberation Committee (CLN) of resistance movements, containing a wide spectrum of political forces including the Communists, had undertaken to deliver Mussolini alive to the World War II allies.

The author told a news conference he believed Longo had Mussolini bound to the entrance to a pigsty at the house where he was being held prisoner and shot him seven times.

Pisano says Petacci was shot two hours later. Both corpses were then washed and moved to the villa for a fake execution.

The book by Pisano, a former senator for the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI), coincides in some respects with other accounts claiming the execution was staged with corpses.

Urbano Lazzaro, a resistance fighter who arrested Mussolini at Dongo on Lake Como on April 27, 1945 as he was fleeing Italy in a column of retreating German troops, has also argued that Mussolini and Petacci died at the house where they were held.

Lazzaro, whose nom de guerre was "Partisan Bill", said last year that they died in a struggle with their captors. "The rest was all staged...The times demanded an execution," he said.

Pisano's book, which cites purported witnesses to the killings, appears at a time when both left and right are finally starting to overcome the legacy of the bitter civil conflict that marked the final 18 months of World War II in Italy.

The PDS broke out of the opposition wilderness to which the Communists had been consigned for almost 50 years when it entered government as the main force in the centre-left Olive Tree Coalition which won Italy's general election in April.

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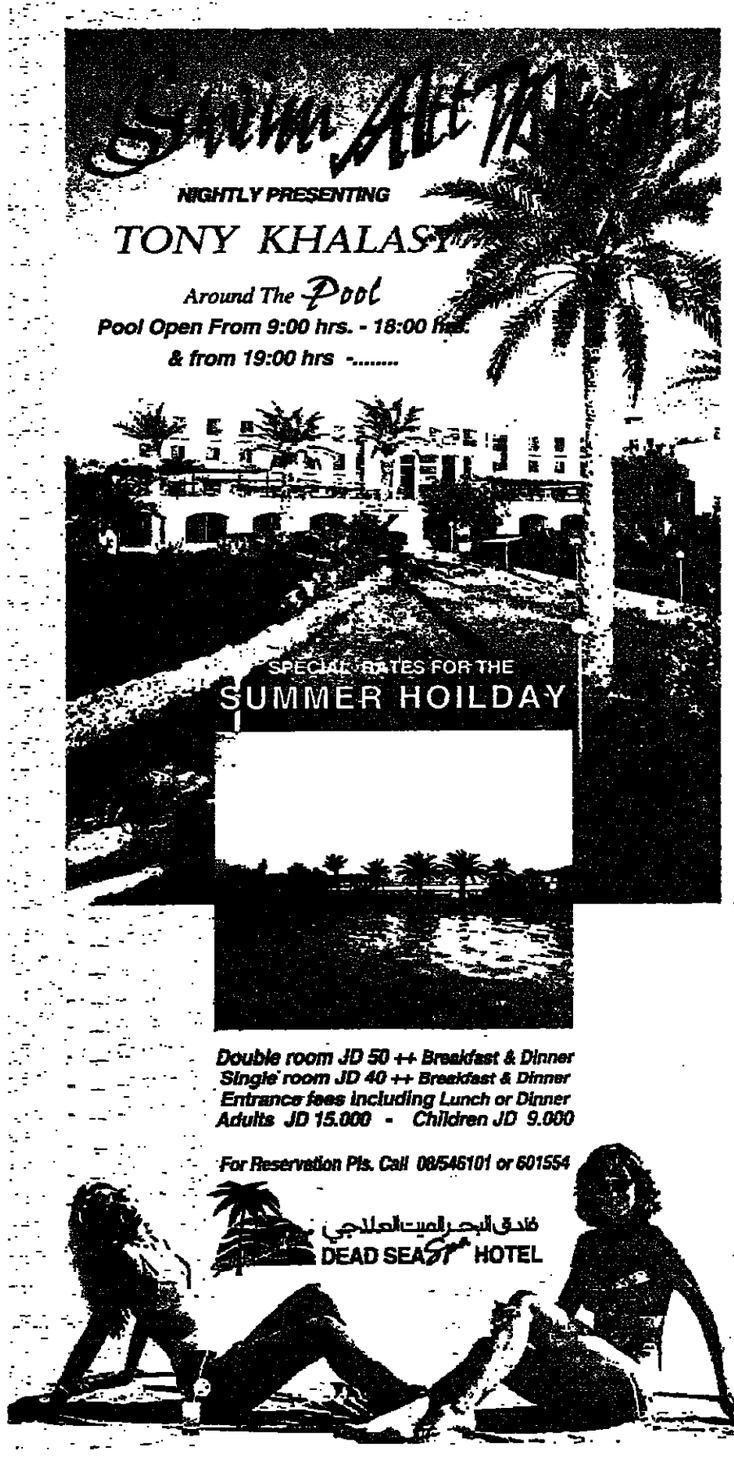
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Education at heart

IT WAS a simple message, delivered by the convenors of the Mid-Decade Meeting of the International Consultative Forum on Education For All gathered here in Amman, and one that needs repeating: There can be no real peace, no real democracy and no real equality among people without highly accessible and quality education for all citizens.

In the case of Jordan, obstacles and successes in the achievement of a far-reaching and substantial education have been noted.

In the past decade, Jordan has put itself to the task in applying an educational reform agenda by improving educational administration, promoting vocational education, legislating free basic education, providing teacher-training courses, libraries and building learning resource centres. The process of reform through intensive research and data collection is currently being executed.

But it is far too early to clap. Too early to applaud ourselves on the fact that we have almost reached parity between gender enrolments at schools and that our total literacy rate stands at 80 per cent.

The fact is, real education means practical and easy access onto the educational ladder and into a system that is finally able to meet the occupational or academic needs of every individual.

There is still the problem of teachers' working conditions and training. The fact here is, there are few appropriately trained or qualified teachers in our educational midst. We have a quality crisis in this country that extends across the entire educational spectrum: management and administration, academic evaluation, teacher training, curriculum content and instructional formulas.

The lack of incentives, especially financial, for teachers is sorely lacking, creating widespread disillusionment from within the teaching profession that inevitably finds its way into the atmosphere of the classroom.

We have to admit the truth that Jordanian children are still largely suffering under an educational system that is primitive, to say the least. An educational system that has abruptly cut off their supplies of creative, analytical and cognitive flows and rendered them into submissive clients of what Paolo Freire has termed "banking education", that is, a system whereby 'knowledge' is deposited into the child's brain, and without interest.

This situation is now unacceptable.

So what needs to be done?

Prioritising educational funds where they are most essential; investing in teacher training and refresher courses, and in the education of curricula planners and textbook writers to enable them to create a learning context that is relevant to students' lives and to the life skills they will require. Identifying the areas where the foundation of education needs to be strengthened and streamlining funds into these areas. And finally to trigger off the long-term and slow but highly rewarding process of building a reliable and fair educational system for all.

Peace and democracy do not come without an educated and empowered citizenry and it is evident where education lies in this era of peace-making and peace-building. It lies at the heart of it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily Tuesday focused attention on the continued pollution of the atmosphere in Fuheis, where the cement factory continually spews smoke and cement dust into the air and contaminates the life of the Fuheis and Mahes townspeople. Mufid Nahleh said that for the past years, the local residents of these two beautiful towns have in vain been campaigning against the continued pollution of their environment and raising complaints with the concerned authorities. Only promises have been given them as reply to the repeated complaints and nothing happened to curtail the danger of contamination which is affecting the health conditions of thousands of people living in the two towns, said the writer. He added that the problem has been complicated far too much with the cement plant management's decision to annex lands around the factory for further mining of the cement, a move which prompted the local residents to stage a one-day sit-in around the factory to protest against such measures and the continued pollution of the environment.

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily cautioned Arab politicians against assuming that the Israeli Likud Party would be adopting policies similar to those of the Labour Party and said the two parties do not form two faces of the same coin, as many Arabs claim. Fahd Al Fanek said that the two parties have a common goal: safeguarding Israel's national interests, but while the Labour Party, led by Shimon Peres, talks peace with all Arabs and was ready to withdraw from all occupied Arab lands, recognise an independent Palestinian state and discuss the final status of Jerusalem and the Jewish settlements, the Likud Party is determined to ruin the peace process by its open declaration that Israel must not withdraw from any occupied Arab land, must prevent the creation of a Palestinian state, retain the settlements and keep Jerusalem united, as the capital of Israel, noted the writer.

Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

An open letter to the Arab summit: 'Peace and security should be mutual and reciprocal'

Your Excellencies,

As you prepare to meet in Cairo, both tremendous challenges and opportunities await you.

A continent and an ocean away, the Arab American community salutes your initiative. We recognise that this summit can make an invaluable contribution to the search for peace in the Middle East. It can restore balance to what has become a distorted process and save the entire region from the devastation that would accompany the collapse or even deceleration of the current peace effort.

We, like you, are committed to a peaceful and prosperous future for our people — a future full of promise in which rights are regained, security is ensured and economies developed, bringing new hope and opportunities to our long-suffering region.

As you prepare to meet, I ask you to consider a few observations and suggestions. The summit's final declaration will have a political impact on many target audiences: the Arab World, the U.S. and Europe, and the Israeli government and people. In drafting your declaration, therefore, I would suggest that you craft a document that speaks to all who need to hear you.

Just as the world celebrated the hope for peace that followed the September 13, 1993, signing in Washington, a properly framed declaration in Cairo can reignite that hope and present a new challenge to the peace makers. You can do this by issuing a statement that focuses on vision, emphasises positive principles and establishes a unified Arab response to the current crisis.

What I hope to see emerging from your deliberations is a clear and unambiguous affirmation of the need for a comprehensive and just peace and a commitment to work for it.

While such a declaration in and by itself would be of historic proportion, it will have an even greater impact if given within a visionary framework. It is not only what you say, but how you say it. Peace, after all, is not an abstraction. The realisation of a just and comprehensive peace will create a dramatic new reality for the entire region. What needs to be communicated is a compelling Arab vision of the future and the possibilities it holds for all the peoples of the Middle East — a vision so attractive that people will be drawn to it. It is imperative that the promise of this future be understood so that it can be accepted and the status quo rejected.

To realise such a peace will, of course, require compromise. To this you have already committed yourselves. But it is important for you to state clearly that compromise is not surrender; compromise in its truest form occurs when two parties, instead of "giving up" their assets, invest them in each other in order to create mutually beneficial dividends — so that the rewards achieved by each side are greater than the initial value of the investment. As envisioned by the architects of Madrid, Israel returns land, Arabs give recognition and cooperation, and both sides benefit from a future of expanded opportunities for all.

You should remind the world that the investment must be mutual, the compromise must be reciprocal; this must be stated clearly and emphatically. What the new government of Israel must precisely come to understand is that the Arab World is committed to a peace that is based on mutuality and reciprocity.

In affirming this principle as part of your commitment to a visionary peace, you will not be seen as rejecting or prejudging. You are doing no more than reaffirming the fundamental ground rules that govern this peace process and establish its firm foundation.

In affirming mutuality and reciprocity, you make clear that ground rules already established should be honoured and that agreements signed and the timetables for their implementation must be honoured. Mutuality and reciprocity, for example, require that Israel: act in compliance with all its commitments in the Paris Economic Protocol and Oslo I and II, in specific and in detail; promptly resume final-status talks on all issues (including borders, refugees, water and land rights, settlements and Jerusalem) in good faith and without preconditions; recommence negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks on the basis of the previously agreed-upon Madrid ground rules; and stop all attempts to change facts on the ground (by such methods as expanding settlements or altering the situation in and around Jerusalem).

"Presenting a visionary commitment to a comprehensive peace, insisting that Israel honour its commitments and agree to mutuality and reciprocity, and tying Arab relations with Israel to full compliance to the terms of peace will ensure that this summit will be a historic event."

It was, after all, in response to these agreements and based on a mutual commitment to those ground rules that several important confidence-building measures were initiated by you. For such gestures to continue, you should insist that Israel's commitments to mutuality and reciprocity must be reaffirmed.

For example, it was an Arab initiative to ease the secondary boycott on Israel in response to an Israeli commitment to freeze settlements. Since then, some Arab states have even begun to develop direct trade links with Israel. Meanwhile, under the Labour government the settlement population increased by 30 per cent in the past three years! What if the Palestinians were so flagrant in their failure to comply with their commitments? Your declaration needs to emphasise that without mutuality and reciprocity, or confidence-building, steps towards Israel become surrender — which is intolerable.

To insist that such commitments be made by Israel is not "prejudging." By making such a statement you would only be doing what the U.S., the co-sponsors of the peace process, have been urging you to do: i.e., "waiting and seeing" and "not prejudging." You are, in effect, accepting a "wait and see" attitude, in that you will "wait and see" if the new Israeli government honours its commitments and behaves in a manner consistent with the principles of mutuality and reciprocity. And until it does, you will "wait and see" regarding future confidence-building measures and normalisation.

The Israeli people, it is said, made a choice. Some say they chose fear over hope. Some say that they chose security and peace on their terms and rejected mutuality and reciprocity, choosing to return to the old paradigm by seeking to maintain all of the gains of the past 2 1/2 years (increased recognition, acceptance and trade and the end of the intifada), while giving little beyond hollow words in return.

Now that the Israelis have chosen a new leadership, you must give that new leadership a choice: peace and security that are mutual and reciprocal, or a reversal in the peace process from which they have benefited so greatly.

As you present these two alternative paths to the government of Israel, be assured that you have significant allies in your camp — the overwhelming majority of the Arab people who want peace based on justice and rights, the world community that has affirmed the principles of a just and lasting peace, and a substantial body of opinion in Israel (and in the U.S.) that will insist that the new Israeli government make the right choice. You are operating from a position of strength and moral authority. Peace can continue if you affirm its vision and its principles and define, in unambiguous language, the terms of its engagement. By being firm in your commitment and visionary in your approach to peace, you will give strength to your allies and those who are committed to a lasting peace.

This is not the time for extraneous debates, counterproductive threats, or the airing of divisive internal petty grievances. This is the moment to accept the challenges of history, to be strong, and to do a great deed.

Presenting a visionary commitment to a comprehensive peace, insisting that Israel honour its commitments and agree to mutuality and reciprocity, and tying Arab relations with Israel to full compliance to the terms of peace will ensure that this summit will be a historic event. You will have established that it is the Arabs who occupy the high moral ground, as you invite others to join you in making an unambiguous commitment to the search for peace.

Britain wonders if Major can last until 1997

By Alan Wheatley
Reuter

LONDON — Last June British Prime Minister John Major tried to regain a grip over his fractious Conservative Party by inviting a challenge to his leadership.

It was a political gamble that, for a fleeting moment after Mr. Major defeated right-wing ex-Minister John Redwood, looked as if it might restore the prime minister's political authority.

But a year on, Mr. Major is once again having so much trouble keeping his party in line that serious questions are being asked about his ability to stave off an early general election.

Mr. Major would like to delay the ballot until next spring — the last possible date is May 22 — but with an overall majority of just one in the 651-seat Lower House of Commons the potential for fatal political accidents is growing by the day.

"There is an end-of-term feeling emerging in the House of Commons. One just feels that we're preparing for a general election this autumn," John Taylor of the Ulster Unionists, the biggest northern Ireland party, said Thursday.

Mr. Taylor was commenting on the frank admission by two conservative members of parliament from north London that they had threatened to withdraw their support for the government unless a full casualty ward was retained at a local hospital.

Mr. Major was said to be outraged by the attempted blackmail, and Conservative business managers were expected to rebuke the

two mps. But one of them, Sir John Gorst, made no bones about his willingness to exploit the government's wafer-thin majority.

"You can call it weak government, but what you do get is the opportunity for people to plead a cause with some power behind them," Mr. Gorst said.

Three MPs have deserted Mr. Major in the last nine months — one to Labour, another to the Liberal Democrats, and the third to sit as an independent Conservative — and the odds are that death or defection will erase his majority before polling day.

Even if that were to happen, strategists of the opposition Labour Party play down the chances of winning a vote of confidence — which would trigger an election — not least because the nine Ulster Unionist MPs know they would have less political leverage if they abandoned Mr. Major and backed Labour.

Former Labour Prime Minister James Callaghan showed in the 1970s how it was possible in Britain for a government that did not even have an overall majority to soldier on for years by cutting backroom deals with minor parties.

But what must be worrying for Mr. Major is the growing willingness of his MPs to rebel and threaten defeats over single issues. Last week, MP Terry Dicks did just that in protest against the choice of former U.S. Senator George Mitchell to chair northern Ireland peace talks.

The muscle-flexing comes on top of Mr. Major's usual headaches with his MPs over Europe.

In a symbolic vote Tuesday, nearly a quarter of Conservative MPs backed a referendum on Britain's role in Europe — in blatant defiance of government policy.

Although Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke Thursday dismissed the vote as "gesture politics", it confirmed that the internal divisions over Europe that have dogged Mr. Major's 5-1/2 years in office are as deep as ever.

Passions over Europe have been whipped up further by Mr. Major's determination to block European Union business until it lifts a ban on British beef exports imposed because of fears that mad cow disease can be transmitted to human beings.

Some pro-European Mps — including Hugh Dykes, who made a stand with Mr. Gorst over their local hospital — have made no secret of their disenchantment with the hardline tactics.

LETTERS

'Crossed' communication

To the Editor:

WHILE FASTLINK did apologise for the disruption of services for a short period, which occurred June 16, 1996, the company does not intend to apologise for its existence. With reference to Mohammad Atiyeh's letter to the editor (Jordan Times, June 8, 1996) we would like to offer the following comments:

1) Fastlink never intended for its service to be a solution to telecommunication problems. Our service is to complement the existing telecommunications and allow our subscribers to stay in touch at all times. Since the need for Fastlink's services has exceeded our expectations, we are currently working on expanding the switch and the network to accommodate the unprecedented demand. This task will be completed very soon and all our subscribers, especially in West Amman, will find that the line congestion they are experiencing will be eliminated.

2) Fastlink has done its own comparison of rates and we have found that they are among the lowest worldwide. We suggest that Mr. Atiyeh conduct his own comparison. We will be happy to assist.

3) The 3,000 subscribers who were disconnected, including Mr. Atiyeh, were those who had not paid the amount due for the month of April. The invoices were sent on May 10 and were due on May 13. Fastlink did not disconnect anyone until June 15.

As to the crowded Fastlink shop, we accept payment for its bills through Arab Bank, Housing Bank, Union Bank and Arab Banking Corporation (ABC). Customers do not have to come to our premises to have their accounts settled, they can go to any of the 160 payment centres provided by these banks, or better still, make a direct debit arrangement for bill payment.

Fastlink is the first private company in Jordan to provide a public service of this nature. It is true that we went through some "teething problems," but then again every pioneer goes through this. We believe our achievement to date has been remarkable, and we will continue to work hard to improve the service and accommodate the needs of our customers.

In this respect at least we have nothing to apologise for.

Nisreen Al Husry,
Marketing Manager,
Jordan Mobile Telephone Services (Fastlink),
Amman.



It occurred to me

Edification of eduction

By Ali Kassay

As the school year draws to a close, it is a good time to reflect upon the evolution of education, in general, and in Jordan in particular. I did that not very long ago, in the course of a discussion which I had with an educator who had spent a considerable part of her career working in this noble profession. What amazed me was the tremendous transformation in the philosophy and practice of education that has occurred in Jordan over the past decades, few as they were.

Of course, it is only to be expected that, after fifty years of progress, the country ought well to have something to show for itself. It is also not so peculiar that the philosophy of education should have undergone such a major evolution; after all, wisdom changes with time. What I found extraordinary, however, was the peculiar set of habits that teachers in the past considered to be beneficial and of high priority, and which they sought actively to instil in the young and innocent minds that were entrusted to their care. They virtually got away with murder. Needless to say, the contemporary Jordanian system of education, in its infinite wisdom, has successfully eradicated such transgressions.

For instance, some Jordanian schools used to encourage reading. Reading in itself, is not altogether evil, mind you. One may read the obituaries in the newspapers, for instance, to learn if the day's deceased include a person close enough, or important enough, to justify doing a bunk from work under the pretext of attending the funeral. But these educators actually sought to cultivate reading as a habit. Fortunately, we were quick to realise the nefarious consequences of such misguided behaviour and put an end to it.

Nor was this the only crime of which the old system was guilty. It tried to develop in our youth mental processes like logical thought, experimentation and even forward planning. This educator to whom I refer, confessed to me that, in science classes, students were given a written description of the apparatus involved, and the process to be conducted, and told to get on with it. This compelled them first to read the instructions, then to assemble the parts and ingredients and, finally, to actually conduct the experiment. Teachers in those misguided days clearly lacked the self confidence to tell the students as we do today, that the teacher's authority is absolute, that his word is law, and that to question it, albeit implicitly, by trying to verify its truth experimentally, would subject the student to severe punishment.

Upon reflection, I remember from my early school days that some of the private schools in Amman tried to produce students who were academically competent. The first action against this insidious tendency was to make it compulsory for all schools to teach the official syllabus. This was soon followed by another regulation which banned schools from teaching anything else.

So there remain one or two schools who have escaped these dedicated efforts and who continue to give good education. Fortunately, however, they charge annual fees far in excess of most Jordanians' income for ten years, which shows the pragmatism of our teaching system. If you cannot eliminate the damage, at least limit it.

Cairo hosts secret talks

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq, which prompted the crisis by invading Kuwait in August 1990, has not been invited.

At least seven Arab leaders will attend the summit. Other heads of state may attend in person or send representatives.

Here is a list of the heads of delegations, based on official sources in their countries. A second list of expected delegation leaders is based on press or diplomatic sources.

Six other members of the Arab League — Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros, Djibouti, Oman and Tunisia — have not said who will be representing them at the meeting.

1. Confirmed

Egypt — President Hosni Mubarak

Jordan — King Hussein

Kuwait — Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al Sabah

Lebanon — President Elias Hrawi

Palestine - President Yasser Arafat

Qatar - Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani

Somalia — Abdullah Hassan Mahmoud, ambassador to Egypt Sudan — President Omar Hassan Al Bashir

Syria — President Hafez Al Assad

Yemen — President Ali Abdullah Saleh

2. Expected

Libya - Muammar Qadhafi

Mauritania — President Maaouya Ould Sid'ahmad Taya

Morocco — Prime Minister Abdul Latif Filali

Saudi Arabia — Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz

The United Arab Emirates — Crown Prince Of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Zayed Al Nahyan.

Iraq urges Ekeus to study offer

(Continued from page 1)

for five days refused access to republican guard sites which they deemed vital to the country's security.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahhaf charged during a visit to Algiers that "the United States is exploiting UNSCOM and pushing it to provoke Iraq unjustly."

"U.N. resolutions call for the inspection of factories and sites where there were products from prohibited weapons, and not those of offices or places linked to Iraqi sovereignty," he said. Another official newspaper Al Iraq, said the UNSCOM team which had been barred access had included "members of the intelligence services of the United States, Britain and other countries."

Al Jumhouriyah also accused Mr. Ekeus of "double-dealing" and of asking the Security Council to demonstrate resolve towards Iraq "instead of defending the Iraqi proposal which he had initially welcomed."

In Washington, U.S. secretary of State Warren Christopher demanded that Iraq give "immediate and unrestricted access" to the sites.

"Containing the threat posed by Iraq to the peace and stability of that region is a critical priority for our administration," Mr. Christopher said, during a brief news conference on Monday.

Meanwhile, Baghdad denied late Monday U.N. reports that an Iraqi anti-aircraft gun had moved at the same time as a U.N. helicopter

tried to overfly a military site in the Iraqi capital on Friday.

The official news agency INA said from New York that Mr. Aziz had ordered an inquiry into the incident and handed a report to the Iraqi representative to the U.N., Nizar Hamdoon.

The report concluded that the "allegations are baseless and were made hastily on the basis of imprecise information."

It added that Iraqi troops had "taken up positions close to anti-aircraft guns but it was a routine measure not aimed at threatening the plane or influencing the mission."

Under U.N. resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait, Iraq must satisfy UNSCOM it has dismantled its programmes for weapons of mass destruction and allow long-term monitoring before the oil embargo can be lifted.

Oil and trade sanctions were imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

In his comments on Tuesday, Mr. Sahhaf asked UNSCOM to "stick to its mission and stop yielding to pressures from a certain country," saying his country "would cooperate with UNSCOM on the technical level to close the file" and allow for an end to the embagro.

The foreign minister also said his country "was cooperating fully to close the file of Kuwaiti missing" during the Iraqi

occupation from August 1990 to February 1991.

He said the bilateral committee on the missing had already cleared up the fate of 300 of the 603 people Kuwait says are missing.

He said Iraq wanted "to have the best relations with Arab countries," adding his country would soon bolster ties with Egypt.

Yeltsin dumps Grachev

(Continued from page 1)

committee for emergency situation that took power in the Soviet union during the short-lived August 1991 coup against Mikhail Gorbachev.

A second attempt to seize power by hardliners was made in October 1993 by Mr. Yeltsin's armed legislative opponents. Then, Mr. Yeltsin used tanks and troops to overcome his foes.

"I travelled to the headquarters of the Moscow military district and the paratroop forces and achieved complete loyalty of the armed forces," Mr. Lebed said.

Mr. Lebed later softened his charges.

"That was not a coup attempt but an attempt to put pressure on the president," he said. "I assume the gentlemen who were involved should tomorrow submit their resignation letters to the acting defence minister."

Mr. Yeltsin, hoping to snap up the 11 million votes Mr. Lebed picked up in the first round and thus beat communist rival Gennady Zyuganov in a July runoff, named him secretary of the powerful security council and national security adviser.

The 65-year-old Yeltsin unceremoniously dumped the unpopular Mr. Grachev, his defence minister for four years, who had embarrassed him by bungling the Chechenya military campaign.

This was clearly further enticement by Mr. Yeltsin to the tough-talking Mr. Lebed, 46, who fell out with Mr. Grachev last year and had publicly derided him as an incompetent during his election campaign.

The charismatic Mr. Lebed, who campaigned on a pledge to crack down on crime and root out corruption, had a strong first-round showing with nearly 15 per cent of the vote, behind Mr. Yeltsin's 35 per cent and Mr. Zyuganov's 32.

This made him a kingmaker, cornering a huge vote badly sought after by the two frontrunners, ahead of the runoff. Mr. Lebed, whose fierce demeanour belies his name which means "swan" in Russian, immediately sought to live up to his tough guy image.



KING MEETS UNESCO CHIEF: His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday receives at the Royal Court the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Federico Mayor. Mr. Mayor briefed the King on the duties of the UNESCO, particularly in the Middle East region as well as Jordan. Attending the meeting were Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, King's Cultural Secretary Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad and Minister of Education Munther Masri (Petra photo)

King hopes for Arab reconciliation

(Continued from page 1)

had nothing to do with a peace camp or those opposed to peace. I believe the overwhelming majority of Israelis are committed to peace.

The peace treaty between Jordan and Israel had an overwhelming majority of votes supporting it in the Israeli Knesset, probably more than the votes achieved on any other subject over a long period of time. I don't know where this notion came from that we should regard this election as indicative of a change of course, particularly when we have heard already that the Israeli government intends to honour all its commitments and obligations and, on the other hand, to continue to build with all the partners in the peace process towards achieving a comprehensive peace.

Q: Do you expect the summit in Cairo to be heated?

A: I don't expect it to be otherwise. There is every need for frankness and candour.

Q : If things don't move as smoothly as you'd like to see them, would you be prepared in Cairo, or somewhere farther down the road, to take steps that would mean cutting back on the relationship with Israel or slowing movement on the peace process?

A: We will do everything we can to make up for all the time lost and all the opportunities and the dark past. We must continue to build, and nothing is going to slow that down as far as we are concerned. I hope that will be the case with the rest because in fact, by moving to make peace a reality in our region, we increase our chances of resolving the difficult problems, rather than taking a negative attitude that might further exacerbate them.

Q: Do you expect Prime Minister-elect Netanyahu to agree to terms acceptable to the Palestinians that will allow the resolution of final status over the next four years?

A: This is still to come. But I believe the government will respect its commitments and will build on them.

Q: But to be specific: Netanyahu has said he will never engage in talks that would lead to the surrender of any part of Jerusalem.

A: If we are to think of all that we have said in our lives in that part of the world, we would find it a very gloomy picture. But responsibility brings with it a greater awareness of the needs and requirements for the future for all our peoples in that region.

As far as Jerusalem, I do not believe anyone is suggesting that Jerusalem be divided in the sense of creating walls and barriers. What we are involved in is a process of destroying and removing barriers. Jerusalem, the Holy City, is important and is very much a part of the heart and soul of every follower of the three great monotheistic religions. Therefore, it has to be elevated to that status, which means the coming together of all of us. Beyond that, East Jerusalem is occupied territory since 1967. I don't see why a solution cannot be found that will make Jerusalem not only the centre of our coming together, in terms of the three monotheistic religions, but also as a symbol of peace between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Q: What happens to the Middle East if the peace process doesn't make the kind of progress that you so optimistically predict? What's your worst-case scenario?

A: There is no alternative for any of us. We would be failing not only ourselves, but we would be failing all future generations.

Q: Do you feel at all exposed because you are the furthest out in normalising relations with Israel, including the new daily bus routes between several Jordanian and Israeli cities?

A: No, we do not feel unnecessarily exposed. What a wonderful discovery it is to find out that people across that barrier, which, psychologically, had been created, feel the same way, have the same fears, have the same hopes, have the same suffering.

Q: Do you believe the United States is capable or likely to be able to get Netanyahu to move forward on issues on which he has not been as committed to as others in Israel?

A: Let's give the prime minister a chance. I believe, God willing, that he will prove what we expect of him. In any event, the people of Israel have made their choice, and we have to live with that, respect it and continue from this point to build.

Q: On Iraq, a number of recent reports in Jordanian newspapers indicate that there might be some kind of reconciliation with Iraq in the near future.

A: There is nothing that I'm aware of to justify any of these reports, in any form.

Our quarrel is not with Iraq. Our struggle has been for the Iraqi people to secure their rights to live in peace and harmony. Our commitment is to support them to live in democracy. A country with such a history and diverse cultures as Iraq could be an example for others. This is a course we'll continue to advocate.

Q: Does the new U.N. agreement allowing Iraq to sell $2 billion worth of oil so it can buy food, medicine and other humanitarian goods also allow Saddam Hussein to continue to rule?

A: The Iraqi regime's acceptance of the Security Council resolution is an indication of the fact that things had gotten to the point where there was no other course to following terms of the needs of the people of Iraq. It may be portrayed as the beginning of the end of the sanctions, but, on the other hand, I'm very, very clear in my mind as to what we would wish it.

Q: Is there any opposition inside or outside Iraq capable any time in the near future of removing Saddam Hussein from power?

A: There must come a point in time where the suffering of the Iraqi people is ended. They have suffered far too much, externally, in terms of the noose around Iraq, which is unprecedented, and, internally, in terms of repression.

The answer has to come from within the country itself. I hope it will focus on not change for change alone, but on change to enable a dialogue to being to put the country together, a country that has neighbours that have diverse interests, as far as Iraq's future is concerned.

Q: On Syria, you have spoken, and others have indicated, that Jordan is concerned about recent infiltrations across the Syrian border. Do you fear attempts to destabilise Jordan?

A: Attempts have never ceased to destabilise Jordan. They have continued to aim at Jordanian leaders, at the stability of the country, at visitors to Jordan. Thank God, through the diligence of our people, we have been able to foil them so far.

I hope that this whole issue of terror and terrorism will be one that is addressed both within the Arab World and outside.

Q: Who are these people? You've mentioned Syria in previous statements.

A: I've mentioned that, obviously, when people come across our borders, they must come from certain states. And they may not be the originators of these actions but, certainly, they must foot responsibility for these actions.

Q: Are these Syrians and Iranians?

A: Not necessarily Syrians and Iranians. There are also some groups that are known to exercise terror in our region. They belong to the other camp.

The divide in our region has changed from what it was – to those who believe in peace and the future and the dignity and security for all people, and those who oppose it, and who are not able to move out of their very limited dark holes in terms of mentality and approach. That is where the struggle is. We have them on the Israeli side, and we have them in the Muslim World.

Q: You have won approval for the sale of (16 U.S.-made) F-16 warplanes. What do you envision using he F-16s for, against what kind of enemy?

A: We have the longest border of any Arab state with Israel. We have a longer border than all the other borders put together. This border is not secured by international forces nor international observers. It is secured by our people on both sides. We have other borders and other problems and other threats to peace and to everything we have achieved so far. We have our armed forces that have also protected not only peace but Jordan and its democracy and its stability and its very existence. And it deserves to have the possibility of having a minimal capability to defend itself against external threats.

Jordan is also a very active part of the United Nations effort elsewhere in the world, and peacekeeping. So these are the dimensions of our needs.

Q: What do you want from the United States? What are you asking of President Clinton?

A: It cannot be my place to suggest what should be done. But, hopefully, the United States will be more involved in the future in pushing all concerned to move and contribute to a future that is in the interest of all of us in the region.

Peacebuilding needs focused efforts — Prince

(Continued from page 1)

supporting the peace-building process and the peace-builders in the Middle East to ensure the sustainability and continuity of the peace process.

"Th efforts of countries involved in peace-building should be recognised as much as those involved in peace-making," a Royal Court official accompanying the Crown Prince quoted Prince Hassan as saying during his talks with Mr. Axworthy.

The Crown Prince also stressed that the international community should continue to demonstrate support for the peacebuilders, noting that after the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty in 1994, the two countries moved from peace-making to peacebuilding.

The question of refugees was also discussed between Prince Hassan and the Canadian foreign minister, whose country chairs the working group on refugees in the multilateral track of the peace process.

According to the source, the Crown Prince said the human and economic dimensions of the refugee problems should be addressed as efforts to reach a political solution continue.

The Crown Prince said that while Jordan rejects the assimilation of refugees it emphasises integration which guarantees the rights of refugees without jeopardising their right to return or compensation as embodied in United Nations resolutions.

The developments in the peace process in light of the return of a right-wing government to Israel was discussed in the meeting, Mr. Axworthy told reporters at a press conference after the meeting that "it was essential" to listen to Jordan's assessment of the situation in the Middle East after the election of right-wing leader Benyamin Netanyahu as Israel's prime minister.

Prince Hassan warned at the "Contact Group for Peacebuilding" Tuesday against unrealistic reactions to Mr. Netanyahu's elections, saying that election statements made by Mr. Netanyahu should not be used as a reason for polarising the situation.

Prince Hassan and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chre'tien said Monday that the June 21-23 Arab summit, which was called for after the election of Mr. Netanyahu should not push Israel into "a siege mentality" since such a move would have alarming repercussions on the whole peace process.

They also warned that the summit should not lead to the creation of pro- and anti-peace axes in the Middle East.

"It is in the tradition of wisdom... to wait and see" what the next weeks or months will bring in relation to the election of Mr. Netanyahu and the effects that will have on Israeli policies towards the peace process," Prince Hassan told the contact group meeting.

The Crown Prince addressed the negative impact of violence stirred by some parties to achieve political goals, saying that such activities negatively affect the peace process as well as the "moderate" countries working for peace and stability in the region.

"Time has come for countries hosting terrorist organisations to work with moderate states to find a shared idiom" for addressing the problems with which the area is grappling, the source quoted Prince Hassan as saying during his meeting with the Canadian foreign minister.

On Tuesday, the Crown Prince said at the peacebuilding group meeting, which was organised by the Canadian International Development Agency, that there is "a great deal of concern over" what be called as "wild cards" stirring violence in some parts of the Middle East.

The Prince, whose remarks came in an answer to a question on the state of the peace process after Mr. Netanyahu's election and the Israeli aggression on Lebanon in April, warned that the peace process will be jeopardised if the "wild cards" continue to incite violence.

The Crown Prince said that there was no alternative to the peace process. "We cannot allow violence to take the initiative out of our hands."

The Crown Prince stressed that the nature of security was changing and "we are moving from a simple narrow definition of national security in the pure military sense to a more complex and comprehensive approach to security," which encompasses human security and the security of the civil society.

"States will never be secured unless people are secured in their daily lives," said Prince Hassan, who stressed the need to apply a multi-dimensional approach to security, peacebuilding, development, and refugees in the talks he held with Canadian officials.

"In the last few years, security arrangements have started to show signs of obsolescence, any arrangements to restore peace must facilitate an overall process which helps the community get back on its feet," Prince Hassan said.

Peacebuilding activities, he said, should address underlying economic and social factors that prevent the establishment of a stable peace as well as threats stemming from poverty, environmental degradation, migration of populations and refugees.

In that effort, there should be cooperation between the military and civil organisations to utilise the vast resources of the military to meet the requirements of security in its broad sense which include military, social, economic and humanitarian dimensions, the Prince said.

The Prince stressed the role that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) can play in that area but said that these organisations have different approaches and interests and, in order to guarantee their effectiveness, "there is a need to mould all these interests and approaches into an internationally coherent framework."

"The development of this framework, he said, should address the specific needs and work within the constraints of the region in question through comprehensive programming approaches that can prove to be beneficial in making the transition from the emergency function to the development function.

Prince Hassan said NGOs should safeguard against making their humanitarian involvement part of the problem rather than part of the solution.

After his address to the meeting, Prince Hassan responded to questions that covered the peace process, armament, economic developments and other issues.

The Prince noted the huge funds that have been spent on disarmament since the Gulf war, due to both demands by the recipients and aggressive marketing strategies by suppliers. He also warned against the danger inherent in the event of sectarian or ethnic strife developing, calling for pluralism and openness in accepting the differences with the peoples of the region as a best means for ensuring stability.

Prince Hassan was scheduled to meet with officials at the Canada Port Corporation, Canadian minister of international trade, Governor General Rome'o Leblank and representative of high-tech companies in Canada.

On Monday evening, Prince Hassan met with officials at the International Development Research Centre and discussed with them means of cooperation in the economic and trade fields.

Prince Hassan, who is accompanied on his visit by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, Minister of Telecommunication Jamal Sarraireh, Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and Parliament Secretary General Hakam Khair, also discussed with Canadian officials at the centre efforts to rehabilitate the economies of the region to qualify them to compete on the international market.

The Prince said during the meeting that the "old Middle East should enter the new world market through developing comparative advantage" with the participation of Canada.

Officials at the centre spoke of possibilities of cooperation in helping develop Jordan's national research centre, and research capabilities in academic field, water and the environment.

They [illegible] establishment of a [illegible] committee [illegible] Canada, Jordan and [illegible] in science.

The Crown Prince, who concludes his visit to Canada on Wednesday, had earlier spoke on inter-faith dialogue and the need to pursue it in order to achieve better understanding and relations among the three monotheistic religions. He also warned against "Islamophobia" that has spread in the West, poiting out that Islam is deep-rooted in tolerance and coexistence.

Also Monday, Prince Hassan visited the Canadian Parliament House and presented the parliament library with a book in Arabic called Jesus and Mary in Koran and Exegesis.

This reference work comprises all the Koranic verses speaking of Jesus and of Mary, arranged chapter (Surah) by chapter, each verse followed by the interpretations of the leading Muslim Exegetes, starting from the ninth century A.D.

The work aims at making the Koranic and Muslim Exegetical material on Jesus and Mary readily available to researchers and interested readers, for the promotion of Christian-Muslim understanding: the purpose for which the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies in Amman was established.

The research and redaction for this work was done by four Muslim members of the Institute staff (three Jordanians, one Iraqi) under the supervision of a Greek Catholic Christian academic from Syria, resident in Lebanon. This makes the published product the fruit of an Arab inter-communal effort achieved in Jordan under Hashemite patronage.

Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

negotiator with Israel, said Monday.

The policy statement by Mr. Netanyahu's new government represents a marked change from the liberal policies of outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who raised expectations about a compromise on key sticking points. The guidelines published in full Monday:

— Oppose creation of a Palestinian state or even a sovereign Jordan-Palestinian confederation west of the Jordan River.

— Insist that Israel will retain sovereignty in Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

— Vow to strengthen Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

— Reject any right of return for Palestinian refugees.

Mahmoud Abbas, who heads the Palestinian team preparing for final status talks, said the positions were "uncompromising and stubborn."

"The policy guidelines carry many noes which contradict the spirit of peace," Mr. Abbas said in an interview with the official Palestinian news agency, WAFA.

Final status talks began in May but were suspended for the Israeli elections.

The Netanyahu guidelines say the new government will negotiate with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on a final settlement "on condition that the Palestinians fulfill all their commitments fully."

As a candidate, Mr. Netanyahu said Palestinian militants were using the autonomy enclaves to attack Israelis and Mr. Arafat's self-rule government was not doing enough to halt violence.

Palestinians warned that if the new hardline government imposed tough measures on Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip violence could result.

"If this new government wants to drop peace, we will face — unfortunately — other options, and we have many," warned Ahmad Qouriea, who negotiated the Israel-Palestinian peace agreement in Oslo, Norway.

Hanan Ashrawi, newly appointed higher education minister in the self-rule government, told the Associated Press the guidelines were a formula for "peace destruction not peacemaking."

Palestinians hope economy will improve with Likud

TEL AVIV (R) — Many Palestinian economists are predicting that Israel's new right-wing government could ease economic woes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the short term even while the prospects for peace dim.

Hardline Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, who defeated prime minister Shimon Peres in elections last month, opposed Israel-PLO peace deals and has vowed to build new Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab lands.

But Palestinians said he could ease a closure that has devastated their economy and offer other economic concessions in place of progress on political issues.

"The economic situation may improve if Likud is smart. Because the Likud may not make territorial and political concessions to the Palestinians, it might have to move on the economic front," said Leila Calnan, a World Bank representative in the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel clamped a closure on the West Bank and Gaza following suicide bombings that killed 59 people in the Jewish state in February and March.

The measure has prevented Palestinian workers and goods from reaching jobs and markets in Israel and has cost the West Bank and Gaza more than $6 million per day in unemployment, [illegible] and lost exports, according to the Palestine Economic Pulse, an economic journal.

Jiries Atrash, deputy tourism official in the Palestinian National Authority, said the new government would probably lift the closure because it reinforces the lines between Israel and the West Bank, which Likud views as Jewish land.

"Do not forget that the economy was much better in the early 1980's under Likud governments than under Labour," said Mr. Atrash.

"Netanyahu will open everything up," he said.

Economists complain that closures have also discouraged foreign investment in the West Bank and Gaza, even turning away Palestinian businessmen living abroad.

"Businessman after businessman filed complaints about restrictions on movement, about getting stopped at checkpoints and crossing into the West Bank from Jordan," Ms. Calnan said.

Other economists are troubled by an emerging trend of enterprises choosing Jordan over the West Bank in order to guarantee trouble-free trade with Israel.

"There is some disinvestment and Jordan is a target for investors who prepared themselves to invest here. They found it easier to move to Jordan and work from there," said Samir Abdullah of the Ramallah-based Arab Economists Association.

Palestinians are most worried by the effects of the closure on employment. Palestinian jobs in Israel, the leading source of income for West Bank and Gaza, fell from 120,000 in 1993 to an average of less than 30,000 in 1995, according to the World Bank.

"The outlook is not hopeful in light of the foreign labourers which Israel has brought in," Ms. Calnan said, suggesting the job loss may be permanent.

Israel has allowed more than 80,000 foreigners, mainly from Thailand and Romania, to fill construction and agriculture jobs in Israel once held by Palestinians.

Mr. Abdullah said while Likud might ease the closure, its policies could have adverse long-term consequences.

"Likud may ease immediate short-term economic pressures while they go ahead with settlement construction and taking resources," Mr. Abdullah said. "Labour policies hurt personal income in the short-run, while Likud policies might effect the whole Palestinian economy in the long-term," he said.

Consensus exists on one point, Mr. Abdullah said: "It can't get any worse."

Algeria sets new taxes as part of social policy

PARIS(R)) — Algeria has raised taxes on beer, cigarettes and petrol and imposed higher income tax on the wealthy as a provisional measure to help government finances.

The finance ministry was quoted Monday as saying the newly voted tax bill would help to boost economic growth and finance social schemes like housing and create jobs for young unemployed people.

The state-owned newspaper El Moudjahid said the tax package passed Sunday by the parliament-like Transitional National Council was based on "national solidarity imperatives".

The government would start levying the new taxes in July. These included a 10 per cent tax on the sales of beer, between three and 15 dinars more on cigarettes and cigars, 0.5 dinar per litre of petrol. It also introdnced a special road tax of between 300 and 15,000 dinars.

Unofficial estimates showed the new taxes would earn the state anything from 8.5 billion dinars ($161 million) to 10 billion ($189 million) in the second half of the year.

La Tribune newspaper said Monday that tax evasion by higher income earners had deprived state coffers of an estimated 30-40 billion dinars a year.

The government will also levy extra income taxes for six months from July at a scale of 15 to 40 per cent of high wage-earners.

"The law constitutes a tool to regulate the good management of public administration, to continue structural reforms and to relaunch economic growth," Finance Minister Ahmad Benbitour was quoted as saying Monday by official media.

The extra income taxes affect people earning between 15,001 ($283) and 1,080,001 dinars ($20,377) a month. The government has stressed this would be applied for a six-month period only.

The additional income taxes will affect 1,649,760 workers at state-owned companies, government departments and the private sector, according to unofficial estimates.

"(The tax) law is a necessity which will allow the government to carry out its programme especially in financing housing, paying salaries and creating jobs for young people in the framework of strict respect for balanced finance," said Mr. Benbitour.

The Algerian government, which is fighting a four-year-old Muslim fundemantalist guerrilla insurgency, is striving to alleviate the social impact on the poor of a liberalisation policy as it shifts towards a market economy.

More than 1.5 million people are unemployed, most of them young people, according to an official tally.

An estimated 50,000 people have been killed in Algeria's violence pitting government forces against Muslim guerrillas since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which the Islamists took a commanding lead.

OECD reports sharp 1995 fall in development aid

PARIS (AFP) — Poor nations faced a sharp drop in rich industrial donors in 1995, but private capital flows to the developing world hit an all-time high of $170.5 billion , the OECD said Monday.

Quoting preliminary figures, it said Japan was the largest donor, far ahead of France and Germany, which both overtook the United States, top donor until the early 1990s, whose aid declined by 28 per cent to just half the amount provided by Japan.

Aid as a proportion of gross national product (GNP) fell in all the group of seven (G-7) countries, which account for three-quarters of all OECD aid, the 27-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said.

G-7 leaders are to discuss official development assistance (ODA) and developing countries' debt at their annual economic summit to be hosted by France in ten days at Lyon, southeast France.

Calculated in current dollars, ODA from the 21 donor countries in the OECD's development assistance committee (DAC) totalled $59 billion last year against $59.2 billion in 1994.

But this apparently small decline masked a sharp fall of 9.3 per cent in real terms because of the dollar's weakness in 1995, with the total at 1994 prices and exchange rates falling back to $53.7 billion.

DAC aid disbursements already fell by eight per cent in real terms in 1994 as compared with 1993.

In a preliminary report the OECD meanwhile estimated that total OECD net resource flows to the developing world reached an all-time high of $253 billion in 1995.

It said private flows, almost doubling over a two-year period, accounted for two-thirds of the total, the highest proportion since the start of the Latin American debt crisis in 1982.

The OECD recognised that the sharp surge in private investment and bank lending to developing nations since 1993 has shown "an overwhelming concentration" in about 20 large or advanced developing countries, mainly in Asia and Latin America.

The poorest nations, mostly in Africa, have not benefitted from these flows and continue to rely on bilateral and multilateral aid.

The overall DAC donors' aid to GNP ratio fell back from 0.30 per cent in 1994 to 0.27 per cent last year, the lowest recorded since 1970, when the United Nations urged industrial countries to raise their official aid to at least 0.7 per cent of GNP.

Denmark (0.97 per cent), Sweden (0.89 per cent), Norway (0.87 per cent) and the Netherlands (0.80 per cent) remained above that target last year.

Among the G-7 countries, Japan which provided aid worth $14.5 billion, slipped back slightly to 0.28 per cent, and France, at $8.4 billion, a 12 per cent fall in real terms, saw its ratio reduced from 0.64 per cent in 1994 to 0.55 per cent, still the highest in the G-7.

Third-ranking donor Germany, at $7.5 billion, saw its ratio fall off from 0.34 to 0.31 per cent. As for Italy, its aid volume fell from $2.7 billion to $1.5 billion because of anti-corruption investigations and curbs on new projects, and its ratio was halved to 0.14 per cent.

The poorest performance was put up by the U.S., which cut its aid volume from $9.9 billion in 1994 to $7.3 billion last year, reducing its foreign aid from 0.14 to 0.1 per cent of GNP, partly as a result of a long budgetary stalemate.

USAID administrator Brian Atwood said here last month a further 23 per cent decline in U.S foreign aid is expected this year, but foresaw better prospects for the 1997 budget.

Mr. Atwood also stressed that new goals for development cooperation agreed by DAC members on May 7 would shift the focus away from what he described as the OECD's "fascination" with aid volumes mobilised by donor countries to the results achieved.

The DAC report blamed the fall in global aid resources on budget deficit cutting efforts by many OECD countries and serious delays in talks on the funding of multilateral development banks, including the International Development Association (IDA).

AIDS could stunt economic growth in Asia, southern Africa—study

WASHINGTON(AFP) - AIDS is likely to slow economic growth in Asia and southern Africa, resulting in lost investment, production and labour and high health care costs, according to a study released Monday.

"As more and more people grow sick and die from HIV and AIDS the economies of Africa and Asia are likely to suffer," said Per Pinstrup-Andersen, director of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPN) which conducted the study.

Using U.N. and World Bank population forecasts, the study concluded that per capita economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa could plunge by as much as 1.4 per cent as a result of AIDS, crippling a region where the average per capita growth rate was -0.8 per cent from 1980 to 1992.

"The selective impact of AIDS, largely on the population in its most productive years, combined with an initial disproportionate effect on the most productive members of the society, has the potential not only to reduce economic growth but also to alter the economic structure," the report said.

"All signs indicate that several countries in Asia may be set to follow the same path," the report said.

Experts believe that by 2000 most of the world's new HIV infections will occur in Asia. New aids cases quadrupled in Thailand, tripled in Burma and doubled in India between 1992 and 1993, the IFPRI said.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"I traded my wedding ring for an I.D. bracelet so my husband will feel like my boyfriend again."

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DANGL

USCOT

DOBCIE

LIEROO

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer : HE [] HIS []

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SWAMP MOTIF PALATE DECADE
Answer: Slipping her size eights into size sixes took this — SOME FEAT

Peanuts



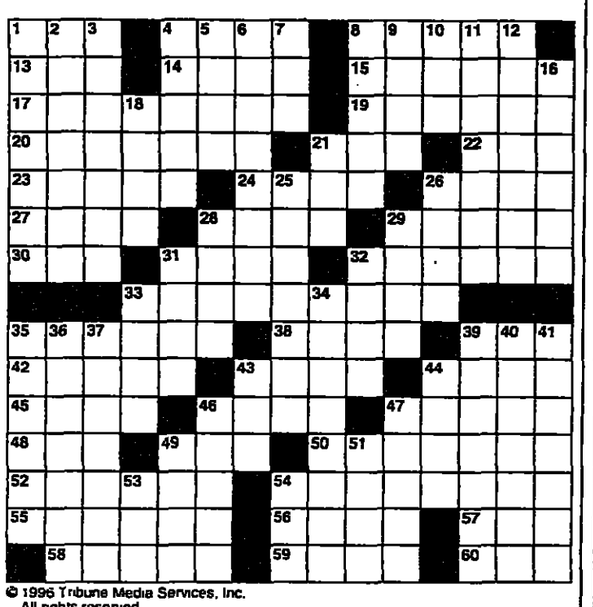
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



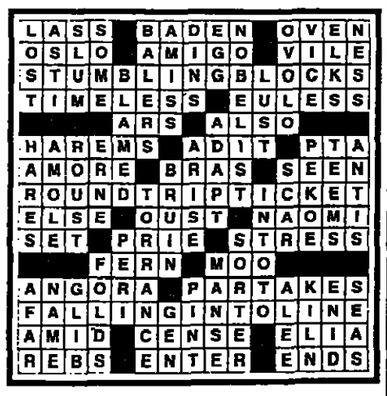
THE Daily Crossword by Randall J. Hartman



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ACROSS
1 Vols.
4 Couch potato's domain
8 Homeless kids
13 Meadow
14 "Star —"
15 His wings melted
17 Framework for Olive and Bo?
19 Stoic philosopher
20 Meryl Streep
21 — Zeppelin
22 Twelvemonths: abbr.
23 Spoil
24 Learn
26 Fusses
27 Rubik of cube fame
28 Rock band equipment
29 Della of song
30 Preceded JFK
31 Three: Ger.
32 Uplifted
33 Sean and Tony's bird?
35 Drink
38 Ceremony
39 Bat wood
42 Steed
43 Nucha
44 "— Karenina"
45 Not mixed
46 A — a dozen
47 Born earlier
48 Timetable abbr.
49 Woodwind, briefly
50 Cut, in a way
52 Oh, really?
54 Transmission shift for Rob and Richard?
55 Smelled
56 Possessive
57 DC resident
58 Thin
59 Eye problem: var.
60 Radical '60s org.

DOWN
1 Swollen
2 Modern room pass
3 Type of cracker
4 Sugary
5 Regatta items
6 Some students
7 Query
8 More knowing
9 Got no return
10 Author Fleming
11 A time for Glenn and Susan?
12 Sweetener
16 Talked back
18 Creation by 10D
21 — Vegas
25 Witty poem
26 Long, long time
28 English composer
29 Mystic letter
31 IOU
32 Piece of Apple?
33 Yearn
34 Falls off a surfboard
35 Spoil
36 Wearer of black
37 Good golf shot by Aaron and Sandra?
39 Actress Ursula
40 Showed contempt
41 Sets
43 Veto
44 Shake— (hurry up)
46 Family man
47 Overweight
49 Beginning
51 Out of kilter
53 Make do, with "out"
54 — Angeles



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is an ideal day today to talk over responsibilities with others and plan much expansion in the days ahead for your success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Get some situation with a partner nicely clarified in your mind today, so garner the data you need first to handle any new project.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Study different angles in connection with your career activities so that you can handle them more efficiently and be successfully.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a fine day today for buying presents and planning your itinerary early. You can be happy with friends later this evening.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think seriously about how today to give great pleasure to members of your family and make definite decisions about the days ahead.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Dig into reports and statements at this time so that you know just what your status is and how better to proceed in the future.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study your position in property and financial affairs today and then you know how to proceed in the days ahead for your success.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Tap into your subconscious today and know what means the most to you and how best to attain your aims for what you desire.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be more progressive in the outside world today after thinking out a fine new course of action which will help your progress.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Your pals can give you good ideas on how best to gain your aims. Show that you have true wisdom to handle any situation.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have to be astute in handling career activities and gain more profit. Some bigwig can open a door to opportunity for you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Bring your finest ambitions to the attention of higher-ups at this time and make the days ahead much brighter for yourself.

Birthstone of June: Emerald — Citrins.

UAE warns of stock market crash

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Sudden price speculation has struck the United Arab Emirates (UAE) stock market over the past two months, prompting authorities to warn against a crash similar to the collapse of the Kuwaiti exchange two decades ago, dealers have said .

In a rare intervention, the central bank urged dealers to stop speculation and revert to their practice of keeping shares as a long-term investment.

"The central bank has sent us a circular advising investors in the local market to end speculation on prices as this could lead to great losses and a price collapse," a UAE bank manager told AFP.

"It also warned small investors could suffer from heavy debt that they could not pay if prices collapsed. The central bank will not allow this, " he added.

Speculation, a unique feature in the UAE unofficial stock market, erupted two months ago and involved the prices of two newly-established companies, the Dubai Investment Company (DIC) and the Abu Dhabi Shipbuilding Company (ADSC).

Speculation has more than doubled the price of DIC's share while that of the ADSC surged by nearly six times, according to brokers.

Such a price hike has triggered speculation on other shares and it could spread further unless the central bank warning is heeded, they said.

"The success of such a new experiment hinges on the tendency of investors in the next few days," said Zuhair Kaswani, a leading UAE stockbroker.

"Prices could stabilise if the tendency for a long-term investment prevailed again. But if speculators opted for a quick withdrawal from the market then the experiment will be a total failure... some speculators could make large profits and others could suffer from heavy losses."

Dealers said the high domestic liquidity and relatively low interest rates on bank deposits had given rise to speculation.

Germans to assist Jordan's ACI in boosting efficiency

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) and the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DINT) have signed an agreement under which DINT would assist ACI to build institutions and improve its organisational structure.

The agreement, signed in Hamburg Monday by ACI President Khaldoun Abu Hassan and DINT Chairman Franz Schose, aims at "enhancing the efficiency of the ACI in serving its members and and its competence as a representative of the Jordanian industrial sector," said Ali Dajani, an advisor at the ACI.

According to Mr. Dajani, the agreement, which will remain effective for three years, also aims at "promoting the internationalisation of the Jordanian industry through enabling the ACI to secure means of advanced technologies" to industries in the Kingdom.

"The accord will enable Jordan's industrial sector to enter the 21st century with full confidence of its ability and performance," said Mr. Dajani.

Mr. Abu Hassan, who is currently on a visit to Germany, described the agreement as a "promising opening for strong cooperation between Jordanian and German industrial organisations."

According to Mr. Dajani, cooperation between Jordanian and German industries have always been "good." He pointed out that dozens of German industrial firms have already entered licensing agreements with Jordanian companies and many others are negotiating similar arrangements.

According to official statistics, Jordan's imports from Germany totalled JD 218,35 million in 1995, making it the largest European exporter to the Kingdom. It also ranks as second largest exporter to Jordan (excluding oil) after the U.S.

Jordan's exports to Germany were worth JD 4 million last year.

In Hamburg, Mr. Abu Hassan, who is leading a team of Jordanian businessmen and industrialists to Germany, also addressed a meeting of Arab and German businessmen and representatives of the European Union member countries.

In his address, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, Mr. Abu Hassan, outlined the evolution of the Jordanian industrial sector and its role in the Kingdom's economy.

He also referred to Jordanian-German economic cooperation and said: "Our two countries share a common belief in economic and social development of the Middle East region to create a future imbued with stability, security, cooperation and credibility."

He paid tribute to the cooperation agreement between ACI and DINT. The accord, he said, will enhance the ACI's role in industrial capabilities as well as decision-making.

Jordan considers itself as a vital "gateway to the Middle East and an important link among the three old continents of Asia, Africa and Europe" and such a geographical feature is "closely relevant to Jordan's economic development and cooperation in the region."

Abu Dhabi cuts lending

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf emirate of Abu Dhabi has sharply cut lending activity due to a decline in oil prices although it has maintained emergency donations, an official report has showed.

The Abu Dhabi Development Fund (ADDF), the lending arm of the oil-rich emirate, provided only two loans worth around 110 million dirhams ($29.9 million) over the past year, according to its annual report.

They included 91.8 million dirhams ($25 million) for Eritrea to finance a power project and the rest for a health project in Seychelles.

The figure is much lower than the average annual loans of more than $100 million during the 1980s, mostly to Arab countries.

Arab Bank to finance British exports to Jordan

LONDON — The London branch of the Arab Bank announced this week that it had reached an agreement with ECGD to establish a $10 million Supplier Credit Finance Line of Credit (SCFLOC) to finance British exports to Jordan.

The SCFLOC is being established between Arab Bank, London, which will provide loans under the facility through a subsidiary company, and Arab Bank in Jordan. The line of credit, which will cover an initial period of 12 months, will be made available for exports from the U.K. to Jordan. The announcement, which coincides with the beginning of the British Week activities in Jordan, is expected to boost efforts to increase the size of trade between Jordan and the U.K.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN JORDANIAN
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 60/179
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 18/06/1996

PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
250.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	12.0	1.59	2	100	22000	219.00	220.00	1.00+
4.780	4.180	JOR.NATIONAL BK.	12.7	3.36	6	1450	6064	4.22	4.18	.04-
+ 2.700	2.210	INDUSTRIAL DEV.BK.	5.0	6.32	3	450	990	2.21	2.20	.01-
S 6.300	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	11.6	3.24	8	3496	14738	4.25	4.20	.05+
3.060	2.600	JOR.KUWAIT BANK	20.3	0.00	6	4193	11697	2.79	2.79	-
1.360	.920	JOR.GULF BANK	5.7	7.29	73	35450	29225	.97	.96	.01
4.180	3.300	JOR.ISLAMIC BANK	18.4	0.00	3	2950	10915	3.85	3.83	.01-
4.420	3.300	JOR.INV.FIN.BANK	19.0	0.00	3	329	1158	3.54	3.51	.03-
3.850	2.420	ARITT.AL-MAL (HOLDING)	1.7	5.38	1	10	140	2.79	2.79	-
1.190	.410	ARAB BANK INV.	g	0.00	50	70650	31938	.42	.41	.01-
5.850	4.700	ARAB BANKING CO.	24.6	0.00	1	4000	19000	4.65	4.75	.10-
1.930	1.060	PHILADEL.INV.BK.	q	0.00	3	450	496	1.11	1.11	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 174.24	%CHG: +0.30	99	126578	148359			
4.410	4.000	JERUSALEM INSUR.	11.7	4.65	2	125	526	4.30	4.36	
2.910	2.300	JOR FRENCH INSUR.	6.4	9.85	1	100	226	2.25	2.26	.01+
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 122.45	%CHG: +0.05	3	120	742			
1.900	1.530	JOR.ELECTRIC PWR.	20.6	7.84	35	27754	42469	1.54	1.53	.01-
1.560	1.140	IRBID ELECTRICITY	8.5	7.69	5	555	791	1.30	1.30	-
2.550	2.190	NATL. PORTFOLIO	g	0.00	3	1000	1260	1.28	1.26	.02-
1.160	.900	REAL ESTATE INV.	20.4	3.46	1	280	230	.92	.92	-
3.660	3.090	ARAB INTL.INV.EDUC.	12.5	6.35	3	525	2629	3.15	3.15	-
1.500	.980	ZARKA EDUCATION	g	5.00	10	2400	2943	1.01	1.02	.01+
2.540	1.870	UNIFIED CO.	10.4	5.08	24	6660	17502	2.00	1.97	.03-
B 1.200	.820	UNION LAND DEV.	E	0.00	5	2000	1975	.97	.98	.01-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 112.15	%CHG: -0.24	87	44144	69673			
33.000	18.950	JOR.TOBACCO & CIG.	17.4	3.49	2	18	387	20.80	21.50	.70+
1.260	1.170	ATTAHQEEB	q	0.00	1	500	625	1.25	1.25	-
3.950	3.270	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	18.9	3.03	16	2382	7870	3.35	3.30	.06-
3.550	2.900	JOR.PHOSPHATE MINES	31.2	0.00	6	304	1111	2.94	2.90	.04-
10.620	8.900	JOR. PETROL.REFINERY	9.2	5.68	44	5324	49110	9.71	9.22	.49-
8.000	7.000	JORDAN TANNING	7.7	5.00	2	782	5630	7.20	7.20	-
+ 1.670	1.380	WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	59.0	0.00	1	250	338	1.42	1.35	.07-
8.300	6.950	JOR.WORSTED MILLS	8.9	1.60	2	600	4170	6.95	6.95	-
+ 5.390	3.410	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	18.5	6.95	16	1441	4887	3.42	3.36	.06-
2.600	2.160	JORDAN DAIRY	13.5	6.82	1	3500	7700	2.25	2.20	.05-
+ 3.640	2.000	JOR.PIPES MANFCT.	11.0	6.06	5	732	1458	2.07	1.98	.09-
3.400	2.600	GENERAL MINING	6.8	11.32	1	300	795	2.70	2.65	.05-
8.120	4.710	DAR AL DAWA DV.INV.	13.1	4.17	2	350	1650	4.90	4.80	.10-
+ 6.220	3.610	ARAB ALUM.IND.	5.4	11.66	6	1330	4512	3.61	3.43	.18-
.740	.490	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	g	0.00	29	47650	28102	.58	.59	.01+
1.500	1.180	ARAB PAPER CONV.IND.	8.2	8.63	5	1500	1805	1.21	1.20	.01-
2.000	1.210	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	g	0.00	2	9750	13751	1.37	1.41	.044
+ 1.450	.810	NATIONAL INDS.	21.8	7.50	7	2250	1885	.81	.80	.01-
2.600	1.060	UNITRADE-PETRO.CHEM.	q	0.00	5	1300	1420	1.22	1.28	.06+
1.290	.830	SAUD. ROCKWOOL INDS.	P	0.00	4	2000	2052	1.05	1.02	.03-
2.380	1.080	ARAB PHARM.CHEM.	30.3	0.00	32	13639	22501	1.61	1.62	.01+
3.450	2.380	UNIV. MODERN INDS.	7.5	8.13	11	2450	8013	2.48	2.46	.02-
2.280	1.380	JOR.INDS.RESOURCES	18.7	0.00	3	1400	2086	1.50	1.49	.01-
2.000	1.000	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	30.7	0.00	15	10000	11541	1.15	1.13	.02-
2.500	1.780	EL -ZAY READY WEAR	P	0.00	5	3500	9930	2.95	2.98	.02+
1.560	1.180	INTL. TOBACCO	28.5	0.00	8	4150	5049	1.23	1.21	.02-
2.620	1.180	UNION CH. & VEG.	31.5	0.00	3	1400	1500	1.30	1.28	.02-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 110.49	%CHG: -1.03	236	119092	194076			
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 141.86	%CHG: -0.28	425	290034	413749			

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 18/06/1996

	.840	.700	JOR-TRADE FAC.	18.9	0.00	7	15500	11005	.71	.71	-
N	1.000	.760	UNION INV. 50%	73.7	0.00	11	26650	5065	.77	.77	-
	1.410	.630	ARAB FIN.INVEST.	g	0.00	15	7750	5580	.70	.72	.02+
			MIDMARK.754/ADDITION	F	0.00	31	495028	198011	.68	.65	.03
	.690	.340	JOR.INDS.MATCH-JMMCO	g	0.00	1	750	435	.58	.58	-
	1.920	1.380	NATL. CHLORINE	E	0.00	7	2750	4300	1.57	1.56	.01-
	1.160	.600	NATL. TEXTILE	g	0.00	3	500	310	.60	.62	.02+
+	1.140	.550	NATZAR DIES & MOULDS	E	0.00	4	1940	1053	.55	.54	.01-
	1.150	.800	JORDAN STEEL	E	0.00	21	31950	27567	.87	.86	.01-
+	.990	.540	ARAB ELECT.INDS.	F	0.00	2	1200	527	.56	.51	.03-
	1.030	.630	MIDEAST PHARM. 75%	E	0.00	9	7518	2937	.64	.64	-
N	1.850	1.100	UNION TOBACCO 75%	E	0.00	1	1000	990	1.26	1.24	.02-
N	1.030	.680	ZAKI PHARM. 65%	E	0.00	2	516	181	.70	.70	-
N	.970	.560	INDS. BND.	34.5	0.00	2	500	280	.56	.56	-
N	1.050	.480	T.TEXTILE MANUF.	g	0.00	1	500	245	.50	.49	.01-
+N	.970	.700	ARIT. POULTRY 75%	E	0.00	10	14250	6783	.70	.66	.04-
+N	1.500	.680	MID.EAST COMPLEX	7.9	0.00	2	350	235	.68	.67	.01-
GRAND TOTAL						139	602664	265595			

+ : New 12 months low
S : Stock dividend during the past 12 months
N : Listed during the past 12 months
F : P/E ratio is 100 or more
g : Negative P/E
k : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year

DAILY BUSINESS BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

Government offsets reduction in customs duties by higher sales tax

UPON THE recommendation of the Development Committee, the Council of Ministers has decided to impose an additional sales tax on a number of electrical appliances as of Monday. Finance Minister Marwan Awad explained that the additional 14-16 per cent sales tax would offset an earlier reduction of the same percentage in customs duties on these appliances. He said that such a procedure was stated in sales tax law when it was amended.

Real estate attracts investors

REVENUES EARNED by the Land and Survey Department during the past five months of this year amounted to JD 27.9 million, four per cent higher than the JD 26.5 million earned by the department during the first five months of 1995. The revenue in May 1996 totalled JD 5.75 million compared to JD 4.96 million during the same month of last year. The highest revenue was in April of this year when the total was JD 6.5 million, close to the amount earned in April 1995. In March, the department's revenue was JD 6.4 million (JD 5.7 million in March 1995).

Ali Gharaibeh, the department's director general, attributed the rise in revenue to a "wider awareness among real estate investors than those who deal with shares, stocks and companies." He said that real estate is considered as something tangible and that whoever owns real estate can dictate the price required at anytime without any pressure. In addition, Mr. Gharaibeh said, investors have become convinced that real estate was the mostly favoured investment after the peace process. "As such, most savings are currently being invested in real estate resulting in higher prices due to high demand and limited offers."

According to an economic source, the real estate market has succeeded in the past two years to attract most of the liquidity that was flowing to the stock exchange. Consequently, land and real estate prices shot up by 100 per cent (Al Dustour).

Negotiations on oil shale, power project to begin later this year

DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS will be held later this year with the U.S. company Mid-Atlantic on a final agreement on providing the necessary financing to set up a power-generating station that would use oil shale as fuel, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Hashem Al Dabbas has said. The estimated cost of this project, which will generate 300 megawatts of electricity, is $500 million, the minister added.

Estimating Jordan's oil shale reserves at 40 billion tonnes of high quality, Dr. Dabbas emphasised that a power-generating station will be built at Al Sultaneh and Allajjoun area in southern Jordan and that the project would create 1,000 job opportunities for various specialities and vocations (Al Dustour).

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 18/6/1996

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7060	0.7100
Sterling Pound	1.0916	1.0971
Deutsche Mark	0.4655	0.4675
Swiss Franc	0.5650	0.5678
French Franc	0.6489	0.6521
Japanese Yen*	0.6489	0.6521
Dutch Guilder	0.4152	0.4173
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira*	0.0459	0.0461

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON(R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday

$1.00 costs	1.3678/88	Canadian dollar
	1.5128/38	German marks
	1.6954/64	Dutch guilders
	1.2466/76	Swiss francs
	31.13/17	Belgian francs
	5.1363/13	French francs
	1535.3/6.8	Italian lire
	107.87/97	Japanese Yen
	6.6200/00	Swedish crowns
	6.4990/40	Norwegian crowns
	5.8300/50	Danish crowns
	1.4074/84	Singapore dollars
	0.7889/94	Australian dollars
	7.7402/12	Hong Kong dollars
One Sterling	$1.5434/44	
Gold (ounce)	$384.65/385.15	

JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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Euro 96

France qualify in top spot

NEWCASTLE (AFP) — Laurent Blanc, a Luboslav Penev own goal and a late strike from Patrice Loko was enough for France to oust Bulgaria 3-1 and earn top spot in Group B at Euro 96 here Tuesday.

In a physical St. James Park contest, France extended their unbeaten run to 26 matches and earned an Anfield showdown with probably either Holland or England.

Defender Blanc headed home a Youri Djorkaeff corner from the right to put France firmly on course for the quarter-finals and their consecutive 26 match unbeaten after 20 minutes.

But a second half catastrophic header from Penev to put the ball in his own net gave France a further goal in the second half.

Though former European footballer of the year Hristo Stoichkov pulled one back, Patrice Loko sealed France's minute with just seconds to go.

It was sweet early revenge for France who failed to reach the 1994 World Cup finals following Bulgaria's late winner at the Parc Des Princes almost three years ago in their last meeting.

Ironically, Emil Kostadinov, who scored twice in that World Cup qualifier, was on the bench with a leg injury.

French coach Aime Jacquet recalled Christophe Dugarry, who was left out of Saturday's 1-1 draw against Spain. The Bulgarians ,however, gave reading keeper Bobby Mihaylov his record 97th international cap.

The tone of the match was set early on when France's Marcel Desailly squared up with Hristo Stoichkov after the French midfielder fouled him to earn a yellow card.

And later when Desailly made a fair but hard challenge on Stoichkov, the Bulgarian tried to push studs in his face, though England's reserve referee Paul Durkin probably missed Stoichkov's lunge as he spoke to Desailly.

Penev had another miserable moment when he skied a left foot tap in from a cross by Iordan Letchkov, who beat three defenders on the right, over the bar.

Durkin came on for Dermot Gallagher, also an English official, who injured his left ankle during the match.

Djorkaeff twice only had keeper Mihaylov to beat, but Bulgaria cleared the danger on both occasions.

Penev's own goal in the 63rd minute was a sickening moment for Bulgaria, though they hit back when Stoichkov scored his third goal in three games in the 69th minute.

But Loko's last-gasp goal killed off any hopes for the World Cup semi-finalists.

Spain in quarters

LEEDS (AFP) — An 83rd minute goal by Guillermo Amor gave Spain a 2-1 win over Romania here Tuesday and a quarter final spot in Euro 96.

It was a nail biting finish to Group B where Bulgaria could have robbed Spain of their place if they had drawn 2-2 with France.

But while Spain were doing all they could Bulgaria fell 3-1 to the French who now join Spain in the quarter-final.

But it looked for a long time that Spain were not going to get the win.

Romania, who are already out of Euro 96 having lost to both Bulgaria and France, set the early pace with Spain barely getting a touch of the ball.

But suddenly Spain's Javier Manjarin collected a lose ball on the edge of the area in the 11th minute and his powerful shot gave Florin Prunea no chance. It was just the boost Spain needed and seemed to settle them down.

The Spaniards were on the chase for a second goal as the Romanians struggled to stay in the game.

In the 24th minute Florin Raducioiu struck to equalise for Romania. Bursting free on the right he outpaced the Romanian defence and as he streaked into the area he slipped the ball past the helpless Spainish captain Andoni Zubizaretta.

A frantic Spanish came out in the second half, desperate for the winner but somehow Romania managed to hold them at bay. Four minutes later Amavisca's teammate Fernando Hierro misssed from in front of the posts when Barcelona's Guillermo Amor pulled the ball back from the line but Hierro's shot was blocked by a defender on the goal line.Spain continued to put the pressure on the Romanian defence and in the end it was Amor who put the Spaniards out of their misery by scoring the winner.

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO., LTD.

ANNOUNCES THE INVITATION TO TENDER NO: 15 F/96

JPMC announces the invitation to bid No. 15F/96,

(FOR THE SUPPLY OF EMPTY PAPER BAGS FOR ALF3).

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Thursday 4th July 1996.

Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD 25 for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submitting bids is 12:00 hours local time Thursday 11th July 1996.

Sameh Madani
Managing Director



Italian team coach Arrigo Sacchi (centre) runs with his players at a training session at Alsager Campus. Italy will play their next Euro '96 Championships Group C match against Germany at Manchester's Old Trafford stadium on June 19 (Reuters photo)

Sacchi plots German downfall

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Pressure is the key to beating Germany Wednesday, says Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi, who will himself be under pressure to find another job if they lose.

Group C has fully lived up to its reputation as the 'group of death', with all four teams still capable of reaching the quarter-finals and Sacchi's future now hanging by a thread.

Italy, once runaway favourites to qualify with Germany, are living as dangerously as they did during the group phase of USA '94, when only Roberto Baggio saved them from an early exit. And Baggio is not here, this time.

If the Czechs do better against the Russians than sacchi's men fare with Germany in midweek, then it will be a humiliating 'arrivederci' to Italy and most likely to their coach.

Sacchi will have in mind Italy's welcome home on their return from the 1966 World Cup in England, when the squad were pelted with tomatoes at the airport after being knocked out by North Korea.

However, the 50-year-old who took Italy to the World Cup final two years ago may yet avoid the tomato treatment.

Sacchi is convinced his men can beat a team whose forward line led by Jurgen Klinsmann has struck five times in two matches, and whose defense marshalled by an inspired Matthias Sammer has yet to be breached.

"We've a very strong team — provided we apply the sort of pressure we ought to be applying, we use the space properly and our moves off-the-ball are properly organised," said the Italian coach.

"But we're only an average team if we stop moving, and if we let things drift."

"I'm perfectly calm," Sacchi claimed. "Because my players know what self-criticism is. One of them has already admitted to me being influenced by a general state of euphoria when he went onto the pitch against the Czechs.

"I'm convinced that this won't happen against the Germans."

Pierluigi Casiraghi, Italy's hero-turned-villain after scoring both goals against Russia and then missing a last minute equaliser against the Czechs, is equally determined.

"We've got to put the past behind us and look to the future," he said. "This Italian team has the football, the fitness and the conviction. We're not inferior to the Germans.

"We mustn't be afraid, we must be ready to play intelligent football. To win and go through to the next round we've got to think and fight as a team."

Germany have meanwhile made it clear they intend to do the Italians no favours whatsoever. If Italy get into the quarter finals then the two teams could meet again - in the final.

Berti Vogts stands to kill two birds with one stone if they win here, booking Germany's place in the last eight and possibly eliminating a dangerous rival from the competition.

"First off, we're not qualified yet, so we've got to win to avoid any problems," Vogts said. "Secondly, it's not in my nature to spare players or to take into account any yellow cards they've accumulated.

"Thirdly, Italy are a great team — they had the Czechs in trouble even with only 10 men. Fourthly, we're not the favourites. The favourites at the moment are France and England."

Wednesday's Euro 96 schedule on JTV

* Croatia - Portugal	6:30 p.m.	channel 2
* Denmark - Turkey	6:30 p.m.	channel 2
* Russia - Czech R.	9:30 p.m.	channel 1
* Italy - Germany	9:30 p.m.	channel 1

Sonics slow start leaves lingering lesson

CHICAGO (AFP) — When Shawn Kemp looks back at the missed opportunity of the past two weeks, poor performances in three opening defeats by the Seattle Supersonics will haunt him.

And provide motivation for every gruelling day of off-season workouts.

"Any time that you lose, that you try to do something in life, you try to learn from your mistakes," Kemp said after the Sonics lost to Chicago 87-75 and dropped the National Basketball Association finals 4-2.

The Sonics fell behind three games to none, became the first club in 45 years to avert a sweep after such a dismal start, then fell victim to the winningest club in NBA history.

"What we have realized is that when the finals come, in games one and two, you have to come out and play," Kemp said. "It's hard to come back from three losses."

"We have nothing to hold our heads down about, " veteran Sam Perkins, who provided a spark in Seattle's back-to-back triumphs, said the Sonics must forget the pain of losing and be proud.

"We can't be disappointed," he said. "We came back and made a gallant effort. Determination is all it is. We were competitive and showed a lot of heart. It's frustrating we couldn't put it together. It was disappointing they kept getting rebounds. It's not anyone's fault. It's everyone's fault."

The Sonics, ousted in the first round of the playoffs the past two seasons, finally lived up to their regular-season success in the playoffs by winning the Western Conference crown. And they showed Chicago were beatable.

"We now know we can win at this level," Seattle center Frank Brickowski said. "We could have won it if we had played our game throughout. They deserve it because they knew what it takes to win at this level. We didn't. Now we do. We will be back next year."

For now, Seattle must settle for being the winningest NBA finals losers ever. Their 64 regular-season triumphs were behind only the record 72 of Chicago. Next season, they will have a greater appreciation of the home court advantage of being the regular-season champion.

"We're not ashamed. No one expected us to be here," Seattle's Hersey Hawkins said. "Of course it hurts. We feel we missed an opportunity by not winning. But this makes us hungrier for next year."

Kemp's education came from Chicago's Dennis Rodman, who taught him about fighting for rebounds and weakening on the mental game of opponents.

"A lot of it doesn't come from the physical ability on the court. A lot of it is mental," Kemp said. "What I will try to do now is take a lot of the mental stuff home with me and try to build on it. I became a much smarter player and my decisions became better. That was really a point with me."

Portugal aim to make their point against Croatia today

NOTTINGHAM (R) — Portugal need one point to reach the Euro 96 quarter-finals when they take on Croatia in Group D on Wednesday — and their opponents have obligingly announced that they will rest some key players.

The match is largely academic for Croatia. They have already qualified for the last eight, thanks to their 3-0 win over Denmark on Sunday.

Striker Davor Suker, who scored two goals in the win over the champions, is one of the men who could be rested by coach Miroslav Blazevic.

"I don't know if I will be playing against Portugal. The trainer is talking about resting a few players," Suker said on Monday.

The news could be frustrating for Denmark who need a Croatia win allied to a victory for themselves over Turkey to reach the quarter-finals.

Even then, they will have to make up a goal difference which is four goals in Portugal's favour.

Striker Alen Boksic, with a tonsil infection, and defender Nikola Jerkan, with an injured nose, are definitely sidelined for Croatia.

Portugal, less brilliant in the 1-0 win over Turkey than they had been in their 1-1 draw with Denmark, are giving little away about their team.

Full-back Paulinho Santos is suspended for accumulating two yellow cards and is likely to be replaced by Secretario, although coach Antonio Oliveira would not provide confirmation.

"Secretario is one of the possibilities we are considering," was his typically cagy reply.

Six other portuguese players have one yellow card and cannot afford to be booked again.

Oliveira has still not found a striker who can provide the finishing touch to his team's intricate approach work.

Sporting Lisbon's Sa Pinto has started both games but, despite a goal against Denmark, has not convinced. He was substituted against Turkey after a stunning miss in the first half.

Oliveira was asked if he could be tempted to recall Porto's Domingos, leading scorer in the Portuguese championship last season. But all he would say was: "Domingos will be play if the circumstances are suitable."

Both teams are in line for having the "Brazil of Europe" tag tied to them, Portugal for some scintillating play against Denmark and Croatia for their second half display against the same team.

But Blasevic immediately rejected the label, saying: "There is only one Brazil."

Russia cling to slender hopes

LIVERPOOL (AFP) — A bickering Russian team will need to pull-off the upset of Euro 96 if they are to overcome the Czech Republic here on Wednesday and move into the quarter-finals.

Although having lost both their matches, the Russians still have a mathematical chance of making it through — such is the closeness in the appropriately named "group of death."

But squabbling after defeats at the hands of Italy and Germany threatens to wreck what slender hopes they continue to cling to.Winger Andrei Kanchelskis lays the blame for Russia's Euro 96 nightmare firmly on the shoulders of the rest of the team.

The former Manchester United flier, now providing a high-speed threat for Everton, has been a shadow of the player that has terrorised premiership defences in the five years since he moved to England.

But he seemed to have no doubt what the reasons were behind Russia's weak impact on the championship when he said: "all our players performed badly and they have not followed the instructions of the coach."

But Kanchelskis is also upset with coach Oleg Romantsev.

Following the drubbing by Germany on Sunday, Kanchelskis finally let his anger spill over, blaming his poor performance on Romantsev's tactics.

"I didn't play in my normal position. It is very difficult for me to play as a defender," he complained.

Indeed, the 25-year-old Ukraine-born star spent the majority of his time trying to nullify the threat of attacking midfielder Christian Ziege as Russia followed up their opening 2-1 defeat by Italy with a 3-0 reverse at the hands of Germany.

Romantsev is just as unimpressed with his complaining players.

"The only players that did well were those that were on the bench," he remarked after the German match.

For those that did play, Romantsev made his feelings clear.

"Some looked bad, some looked very bad," he said.

In a bid to try and relax before the Czech match the Russians took Monday off and went on a shopping spree.

But if the Russians are trying to regain their confidence the Czechs, who may have wrecked Italy's quarter-final spot with the 2-1 win on Friday, have no such problem.

And Czech coach Dusan Uhrin is convinced he has the measure of his rivals, even if he will be without the services of his experienced sweeper Miroslav Kadlec, out through suspension.

"The Russian are a very good team but very moody. When they concede a goal they disintegrate," says Uhrin.

Kadlec with likely be replaced by Lubos Kubik.

Uhrin also has a problem with Radoslav Latal who has been badly hit by cramp and Vaclav Nemecek who is suffering from a thigh strain.

But Uhrin remains upbeat. "We can beat the Russians and there is no doubt our victory over Italy has given the team the confidence. There is the feeling we can beat anyone now," he said.

Laudrup tries to rally Denmark

SHEFFIELD (AFP) — A disconsolate Michael Laudrup did his best to rally Denmark for Wednesday's battle against Turkey by telling his teammates that it was better to go home in third place with four points than fourth place with one point.

The Danish skipper, who celebated his 32nd birthday at the weekend, knows that the odds are stacked against the team still being in Euro 96 come the weekend.

A big win for Denmark combined with a loss for Portugal against the already-qualified Croatia could propel them into the quarter-finals but the Danes are not optimistic. And coach Richard Moeller Nielsen in his last match with Denmark is not betting his house on it. "We have a lot to do," said the realistic Nielsen.

Their campaign this time is a long way from their championship-winning exploits of 1992 when they only qualified after Yugoslavia were banned because of civil war.

Keeper Peter Schmeichel is still unhappy about the penalty he conceded against Croatia after fouling Mario Stanic. Schmeichel believed Davor Suker's penalty was the turning point of the match.

As for Turkey, at least Abdullah will have done himself some good despite Turkey losing to both Portugal and Croatia.

The blond trabonspor wing-back has been a useful player for Turkey and is hoping English premiership clubs have been watching.

"If an English club wanted to talk to me, I would say 'yes, of course,'" he said.

Gone are the days when Turkey would feel they had done well if they lost by less than five goals.

Although Turkey lost to both Croatia and Portugal, the scoreline was 1-0 in both cases which proves they can compete with the best.

And their emergence as the most improved team in Europe, can largely be attributed to the efforts of their 43-year-old coach Fatih Terim.

They take their football seriously in Turkey but the pressure is now on fatih to satisfy the fanatical public's demand for more success.

But the fact that the Turks are in England at all is a testament to the tactical and motivational skills of the second most capped player in Turkish football.

Defender Temizkanoglu Ogun is back following a knee injury and should start the match. Denmark can boast a clean bill of health.

Turkey might have struggled to make their mark on the pitch at Euro 96, but there is little doubt their flag-waving, whistle-blowing supporters are top of the table.

Neutral spectators who saw their 1-0 Group D defeats by Croatia and Portugal at the city ground this week can hardly fail to have been impressed by the backing provided by an estimated 15,000 followers.

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Bosnian Olympic team prepares for Atlanta journey

FRANKFURT (R) — War-torn Bosnia's Olympic athletes leave their German training centre for the United States on Wednesday to begin a far simpler journey to the Atlanta Games than their 1992 race against the clock to reach Barcelona.

Instead of needing help from the United Nations to escape besieged Sarajevo, the Bosnian team will fly from Frankfurt to Atlanta to spend the time before the Games in an Alabama town trying to get acclimatised to the heat. The Games begin on July 19.

"We will certainly have no such problems this time," Izudin Filipovic, secretary general of the Bosnian Olympic Committee, said at a weekend reception for the team.

"Our concern right now is finding a way to become used to the hot weather."

In 1992 it took an escort by United Nations armoured personnel carriers to escape Sarajevo and start a harrowing trip to Barcelona after getting last-minute approval to participate in the games.

Many team members and officials arrived just hours before the start of the games after enduring the drive to Sarajevo Airport to reach a U.N. plane which flew out.

Travelling to Atlanta will be far easier since the nine Bosnian athletes who have qualified have spent the past year training in Germany, England and Croatia.

The team is financed by a shoestring budget helped by a grant from an International Olympic Committee charity which aids cash-strapped countries. Training centres in Sarajevo were destroyed during the war.

"We are here in Germany because of the Olympic spirit of helping one another," Filipovic said.

For 19-year-old swimmer Dijana Kvesic, who will compete in the women's butterfly and backstroke events, the chance to train in Germany provided her only prospect of reaching Atlanta.

"This would have never been possible if I had stayed in Sarajevo," she said. "There is no Olympic-size pool at home. The training centres have been destroyed."

As with the 1992 team which came away empty-handed, Kvesic and her team mates are not holding out much hope of winning medals. The chance to carry the Bosnian flag at an international event and competing count as triumphs.

Bosnia's top Olympic prospect is marksman Nedzad Fazlija, a 28-year-old who endured the siege and bombardment of Sarajevo as an unwilling recruit in the Bosnian security force.

But Fazlija, like others, said training in Germany had proved difficult at times even though the facilities were among the best in the world.

"It has been hard to train because I am separated from my family and friends," said Fezilija, who finished seventh at a world cup shooting event last year in Seoul.

"It has been difficult to be here at a time of such suffering at home."

Asian Youth Soccer Championship

Jordan plays Turkmenistan today

Bahrain wins opening match 6-1

By Walid Ghazaleh in Manama and Aleen Bannayan in Amman

THE KINGDOM'S national under-16 soccer team play their first match in the Asian Youth Soccer Championship when they meet Turkmenistan Wednesday on the second day of Group 1 matches currently underway in Manama, Bahrain.

Bahrain are the third team in the group, the winner of which qualifies for the final round in Thailand Sept. 14-28.

Hosts Bahrain drew closer to qualification when they crushed Turkmenistan 6-1 in the group's opening match Monday. The first half ended 2-1.

Following Bahrain's big win Jordan's team will have to score a similar victory in order to have a chance to qualify.

Competition officials noted that while the Bahraini team were well-prepared for the tournament, the visiting Turkmen team could not adapt to the hot and humid weather in Manama, a fact that affected their performance in the match.

Bahraini soccer and sports officials said their team's win did not mean automatic qualification and rated their upcoming match against Jordan as "highly crucial".

The competition includes 30 Asian teams divided into nine groups. Japan are the titleholders of the last championship held in Doha in 1994.

Jordan's teams includes Tareq Fayez, Shaker Khleif, Ashraf Shatat, Osama Hatamleh, Ahmad Da'san, Mohammad Masri, Ali Omar, Mahmoud Ahed, Osama Yacoub, Ammar Shreideh, Mohammad Wajih, Ahmad Abdul Hadi, Mohannad Harbi, Abdallah Ka'abneh, Abdullah Qtati, Baha' Abdul Mune'm , Sufyan Izzat, Rami Zhrawi, Sezar Sobar, Ghayyath Tamimi, and Mahmoud Shlbayeh.



Carl Lewis is airborne as he completes his long jump attempt during a qualifying round at the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in Atlanta, June 17. Lewis qualified for the finals with a jump of 8.03 metres (Reuters photo)

Carl Lewis struggles to qualify for Olympics

ATLANTA (R) — Carl Lewis looked like anything but a three-time Olympic long jump champion as he struggled to qualify sixth at the U.S. Olympic trials on Monday, while reigning world champion Michael Johnson eased through the 400-metre semifinals.

"There were no statements to make today," insisted Lewis.

But he may have made one in his performance. It was not until his third attempt that Lewis leaped 8.03 metres (26 feet, 4 1/4 inches), once a mere starting point for the soon-to-be 35-year-old multiple gold medallist.

"I didn't want to be too aggressive, because I didn't want to risk an injury," said Lewis, who finished eighth and last in the 100 metres final Saturday after suffering a cramp in his right calf. "I feel confident about (the final) Wednesday night."

But Lewis was far from smooth until his third jump, when he finally adjusted his approach and came close to hitting the long jump takeoff board the way he wanted.

Now he must finish in the top three in the final to make the U.S. long jump team. That could be a challenge as world record-holder Mike Powell and Mike Conley both jumped 8.32 metres (27 feet, 3 3/4 inches) in qualifying and Erick Walder, Kareem Streete-Thompson and Joe Greene exceeded Lewis's best effort.

If he fails, Lewis, winner of eight gold medals over the last three summer games, will have only the men's 200 metres remaining to qualify for his final Olympic team.

Johnson, who hopes to become the first male to win gold in the 200 and 400 metres in the same Olympics, let young Alvin Harrison control his race in 44.43 seconds.

"Not expending a lot of energy so far will help me in the final," said Johnson, who clocked 44.81 seconds.

"I think I'm in shape right now to run under 43.29," he said, referring to the world record. "But whether it will happen I don't know."

Meredith Rainey ran the fastest women's 800 metres of the year, clocking one minute, 57.04 seconds to earn her place on the Olympic team.

And oft-injured Mary Slaney made an emotional run in the women's 5,000 metres to make the Olympic team for the first time since 1988.

The 37-year-old Slaney, best known for her sprawl to the track at the 1984 Olympics in a race with South African born Zola Budd, came from fifth in the final three laps to claim the second U.S. spot in the women's 5,000 in 15:29.39. Lynn Jennings won in 15:28.18.

"A year ago I didn't think it was going to happen, and it happened," said Slaney, the 1983 double world champion who has had at least 18 operations to her legs. "I feel great."

Giants beat Marlins, Astros overcome Reds in National League

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Barry Bonds was the hero with both his bat and his glove for the San Francisco Giants on Monday.

Bonds smacked a solo homer in the fourth inning and made the defensive play of the game in the ninth to preserve the win as the Giants nipped the Florida Marlins 1-0.

Bonds homered off Al Leiter (8-6) for the game's lone run and accounted for two of San Francisco's four hits.

Osvaldo Fernandez (4-6) pitched 7 2/3 scoreless innings, combining with Rod Beck on a three-hitter for the Giants.

Bonds saved the day for his team when he made a great catch on a dead run on Terry Pendleton's liner to the gap in left-centre with Jeff Conine in scoring position on second in the ninth inning.

"That was a heck of a catch," Giants manager Dusty Baker said. "It saved a run, an extra-base hit and the game. Everyday, Barry does something for this team."

Fernandez retired 14 straight batters until walking pinch-hitter Joe Orsulak with one out in the eighth. He gave up just two hits and walked two with five strikeouts.

"He was in command all game," Baker said. "To say he threw the ball great is an understatement. There were two quality pitchers out there today."

Leiter allowed just three hits and struck eight, including getting Bonds looking twice, in seven innings in a tough loss.

At Colorado, Shane Andrews homered twice and drove in four runs and Rookie Ugueth Urbina allowed two runs over 6 1/3 innings to lead the Montreal Expos to a 5-3 win over the rockies, who had their six-game winning streak snapped.

Andrews hit a solo homer in the third inning and a three-run shot in the fourth off Rockies starter and loser Marvin Freeman.

Urbina (4-0) allowed five hits, while Freeman (4-4) surrendered five runs and seven hits in seven innings.

Dante Bichette and Andres Galarraga hit solo homers for the Rockies.

In Pittsburgh, Jose Vizcaino's two-out single off Pirates closer Francisco Cordova scored Lance Johnson with the winning run in the top of the 10th inning as the New York Mets blew a 6-0 lead before winning, 7-6.

The Mets took a 6-1 lead into the seventh inning on home runs by Jeff Kent in a three-run first and Johnson in a three-run second. But Pittsburgh tied it with a five-run seventh, highlighted by Mark Johnson's two-run shot.

Lance Johnson doubled, homered, scored three times, drove in three runs and added a pair of stolen bases for New York.

Cordova (2-4) struck out the first two batters in the 10th, but Johnson singled, stole second and scored when Vizcaino lined a 2-2 pitch to right field.

In Atlanta, Greg Maddux scattered four hits over eight innings for his first win in a month and Ryan Klesko and Dwight Smith homered to lead the struggling Braves to a 9-3 win over the reeling San Diego Padres.

Maddux (6-5) gave up one run with no walks and a season-high eight strikeouts for his first win since May 17 as the braves won for only the fourth time in 11 games.

Sean Bergman (3-7) allowed seven runs and nine hits over 4-2/3 innings as the Padres fell for the 10th time in their last 11 games.

In Houston, Jeff Bagwell's two-run double in the seventh lifted the Astros to a 5-4 win over the Cincinnati Reds.

The Astros trailed 4-3 when John Cangelosi led off the seventh with a walk and moved to second on Craig Biggio's single. Bagwell hit a 1-2 pitch from Jeff Shaw (2-3) into left-centre field, scoring both runners to give the Astros their winning margin.

Anthony Young (3-3) allowed one hit and struck out two over two scoreless innings for the win. Shaw was tagged for two runs and five hits with one walk in 1 2/3 innings.

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Wimbledon men's draw

Sampras could face Philippoussis in 2nd round

LONDON (R) — Titleholder Pete Sampras received a perilous draw for next week's Wimbledon on Monday with a possible second round match against the man who beat him in this year's Australian open, towering Australian Mark Philippoussis.

Provided he beats fellow American Richey Reneberg in the opening round, the three times champion could face the 30th-ranked Australian teenager in round two, assuming Philippoussis gets by Argentine Javier Frana in his first test.

If Sampras, the top seed who missed last week's Queen's Club tournament through fatigue after reaching the French Open semi-finals, survives his first two tests, he should reach the fourth round where he could face French 16th seed Cedric Pioline or dangerous Dutchman Richard Krajicek.

Then he would have a quarter-final against world number two and seventh seed Thomas Muster of Austria or 1991 champion Michael Stich of Germany, the 10th seed.

Sampras's draw is loaded all the way, with Croatian fourth Seed Goran Ivanisevic in the second quarter and due to open against German Bernd Karbacher on the way to what could be a third meeting with the top seed in as many years.

Ivanisevic, beaten by Sampras in the 1994 final and in the semifinals last year, should move smoothly to the fourth round where he could face Swiss Marc Rosset, the 14th seed who reached the French semifinals this month.

Stefan Edberg, the two times champion given 12th seedinh in his last Wimbledon before he retires, has a tough opener against Frenchman Guy Forget and if he comes through that could again face American Michael Chang in the fourth round.

It was Chang, the sixth seed, who Edberg beat in Paris as he advanced to the quarter-finals, avenging his defeat by the American in the 1989 final there.

If they do meet at Wimbledon, Ivanisevic should be the next hurdle.

Volkov shocks Pioline

In Nottingham top seeded Frenchman Cedric Pioline suffered a first round shock at the Nottingham Open n Monday as Alexander Volkov of Russia beat him 6-2, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3.

Pioline, seeded 16 at Wimbledon and a French Open quarter-finalist, was not disappointed saying: "I played a clay-court match last night in Berlin and I was not happy to have to play early today on grass. So I thought I played very well."

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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Mideast unrest leads to rights abuses — Amnesty

LONDON (Agencies) — Both government and opposition forces involved in armed conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa caused appalling human rights abuses in 1995, Amnesty International said on Tuesday.

It cited cases of political detention without charge, unlawful executions and "disappearances," and said in its annual report that unfair trials were committed with almost total impunity and lack of investigation by governments.

"Armed opposition groups were an integral part of the Middle Eastern political landscape, committing an increasing number of grave human rights abuses without any accountability," the group said in a statement.

"Torture and ill-treatment continued to be widespread throughout the region."

Amnesty said hundreds of people were executed without a trial by security forces and government-backed militias in Algeria and thousands of sympathisers of banned Islamic groups were held in detention without charge in Egypt.

More than 20 journalists were also killed in Algeria, most by reportedly armed groups.

The human rights group added that Palestinians in Israel and the occupied territories were systematically tortured or ill-treated during interrogation by the general security service.

Four people in areas under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian National Authority also died in custody under circumstances suggesting that torture may have contributed to their deaths.

"Our principal concern in Saudi Arabia is the number of beheadings and amputations which we consider cruel and inhuman punishment," said Amnesty spokesman Mark Ogle, adding that the majority of victims were foreign nationals.

An Egyptian, Mohammad Ali Al Sayyid was sentenced to 4,000 lashes for burglary.

At least 192 people were executed in Saudi Arabia last year and 47 met a similar fate in Iran.

Twenty-seven people, including 15 women, were also sentenced to flogging in the United Arab Emirates and at least 14 people convicted of robbery in Yemen were sentenced to amputation.

Mr. Ogle also stressed Amnesty's concern about the "ill-treatment and execution of pro-democracy campaigners" in Bahrain.

As examples of progress, the human rights organisation cited the release of political prisoners in Israel on the granting of autonomy to Palestinian areas, as well as in Syria, and the closing of a detention camp at Ain M'guel in the Algerian desert.

The use of torture had also diminished in Morocco, Amnesty said, though not in the disputed Western Sahara.

The report said that extrajudicial executions by government security forces or their agents topped the list of abuses in the region, with hundreds killed in Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq (including areas under Kurdish control), Israel (including Israeli-occupied and Palestinian territories), and Yemen.

Amnesty said the fate of thousands of people who had disappeared remained unknown in countries such as Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Western Sahara, Syria and Yemen.

Torture and ill-treatment of prisoners was widespread in at least16 countries, the report said, and detainees had died apparently as a result of torture in custody or from inhuman or degrading prison conditions.



FESTIVITIES: His Majesty King Hussein waves to cheering crowds attending a celebration organised by the Ministry of Education marking the 50th anniversary of Jordan's Independence Day (Petra photo)

Israel to face four 'very difficult years' — Peres

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres said on Tuesday Israel would face "four very difficult years" under its new hardline leader Benyamin Netanyahu.

"Sadly, I can say there could have been four wonderful years, like the four years in the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, may he rest in peace," Mr. Peres told his Labour Party parliamentary faction, now the main opposition.

"Four very difficult years — very difficult — are in store for us. I think the election results make it hard for us — and by us I don't mean only the Labour Party, I mean the entire country in all respects," he said in broadcast remarks.

Mr. Peres, who narrowly lost the May 29 election to the Likud Party leader, has said that as head of the opposition, he would continue to fight for the Middle East peace process he and the assassinated Rabin helped forge.

"The peace process is not a process of rhetoric. It is a process of taking controversial and very complex decisions. I do not think you can carry out a peace process with a couple of speeches and phrases," Mr. Peres said.

He warbed Mr. Netanyahu that if he truly wanted peace, then he would have to walk hand-in-hand with Mr. Arafat in order to achieve it.

"You will also go with Arafat if you are serious about peace, you will also hold his hand if you are serious about your words." Mr. Peres said in a speech to the Knesset. He was alluding to a critical Netanyahu election campaign poster that used images of Mr. Peres walking hand-in-hand with the Palestinian leader to suggest that the Israeli leader was being led astray.

In policy guidelines and public statements that have alarmed the Arab World, Mr. Netanyahu, a master of the television soundbite, has pledged to pursue peace — while strengthening Israel's hold over occupied land.

Mr. Netanyahu has said he would expand Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and retain Israel's self-proclaimed sovereignty over the Golan Heights and all of Jerusalem.

A settler leader said on Tuesday he hoped the Jewish settlement population in the West Bank would triple during Mr. Netanyahu's term.

"I hope that during this new government's term we will be able to bolster the settlements...By imposing Israeli law on the settlements and de facto by tripling the Jewish community (in the West Bank) from 150,000 to 500,000," said Shlomo Katan, head of the local council at the Alfei Menashe settlement.

Mr. Peres, in his Knesset speech, attacked Mr. Netanyahu for opposing a Palestinian state while calling for self-rule. "The Palestinians already have self-rule. There is no reason to propose this," he said. "The agreements which have been signed by one government are binding on the government which follows it."

Mr. Peres said he was convinced that "the majority of the people of Israel support the peace process and want to continue it."

Mr. Peres told members of his Labour Party Tuesday that despite his defeat in elections and calls for new leadership he would not step down as party leader.

"I personally in no way will be the one that jumps ship...I will contribute all that I can," Mr. Peres said. The outgoing premier has been evasive ab out his future plans since losing to Mr. Netanyahu.

Qadhafi to reume expulsion of Palestinians next month

CAIRO (AP) - Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has warned the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) that he will resume expulsions next month of the thousands of Palestinians living in Libya, a PLO official said Tuesday.

Mohammed Subeih, the PLO representative to the Arab League, said Colonel Qadhafi sent his warning Monday to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat through the PLO office in Tripoli.

Mr. Subeih told the Associated Press that the deportations will restart July 1, according to Col. Qadhafi's warning.

Col. Qadhafi expelled 2,000 Palestinians last year to focus attention on the shortcomings of the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords.

By forcing out the refugees, Col. Qadhafi left many with nowhere to go since most were from families who fled their homes at the founding of Israel in 1948 and whose future is not dealt with in peace agreements so far.

Col. Qadhafi expelled the refugees to Egypt, but the Egyptian government refused them entry because they did not have proper travel papers to go to the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip. Hundreds were struck for months in a no-man's land on the Egyptian border.

Col. Qadhafi halted the expulsions after protests from Arab countries and the PLO, but said he would eventually throw all Palestinians out of Libya after the current school year. About 30,000 Palestinians are believed to remain in Libya.

Last month he turned down a request from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to halt all deportations, insisting that he is offering the Palestinians a chance to go home rather than to live as refugees.

COLUMN

Woman discovers corpse in car

TAIPEI (AFP) — A woman on her way to a sing-along club discovered a man's corpse in her car as she came to park, a report said Tuesday. The woman, identified only by her last name as Chu, found the body Monday after picking her car up after three days, the mass-circulation United Daily News quoted police as saying. She drove to the karaoke club in Hsinchu near here, accompanied by her young daughter, without noticing the corpse, the report said. The car had been left parked in an alley three days previously. On reaching the club Monday night, the woman parked, turned to the back seat to grab her handbag, and screamed at the sight of the stiff body, police said. They added the woman had got into the car and tossed her handbag to the back without noticing that the man, identified as 51-year old Chung Tseng-Fu, was lying there. The woman's daughter had complained of a bad smell, but was told by her mother that this was because the car had not been used for three days. Police suggested Chung may have entered the unlocked car and died of a heart attack.

Disney to cut movie production by half

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — The cost of making and marketing movies in a highly competitive market has prompted Walt Disney Company to cut by half the number of movies it will make, a company official confirmed Monday. "It's a decision we made over a year ago," said Disney corporate spokesman John Dyer, when asked about a New York Times story about the film glut and future cutbacks. Joe Roth, chairman of Walt Disney Studios, said the current output of 35 to 40 movies would be cut to 20 films. Industry experts expect other studios to follow suit. "I don't see the quality of screenplays and stories and marketing that justifies 40 pictures a year," he told the Times. "Nor do I see the economics justifying 40 pictures a year." Despite record receipts on box-office hits, studios have been swallowing the cost of dozens of losers. Market analysts say it costs some $50 million to make the average movie, and most of those lose money even after tallying income from videocassette and international sales.

Garbo signed photo fetches $2,500

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — A signed photograph of Swedish actress Greta Garbo was bought by a collector Monday for 17,000 kronor ($2,500), more than twice the top expectation of 8,000 kronor, auctioneer Patrik Ljungcrantz said. The picture, for a childhood friend Vera Schmiterloev with a message thanking her for the times they had spent together, was signed "Gurra," a shortened form of Garbo's family name of Gustaffson. Signed photographs by Garbo, whose most famous saying was "I want to be alone," are very rare, Mr. Ljungcrantz said. Garbo died in 1990 aged 85. At the same auction a Cadillac Fleetwood Saloon used by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan when he was governor of California, failed to find a buyer. The Swedish owner of the car, which also featured in the 1989 film Batman, refused an offer of 140,000 kronor.

Musa urges Netanyahu to stick to 'land-for-peace'

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa on Tuesday urged Israel's new prime minister to stick to a land-for-peace policy if he wants negotiations with the Arabs to move forward.

Mr. Musa also said in an interview with the Associated Press and AP Television that he expects the Arab summit here next weekend to reaffirm the Arab commitment to that principle, which both sides accepted in starting negotiations five years ago.

Egypt, along with Syria and Saudi Arabia, called the summit to discuss the future of the peace process following the election of hardliner Benyamin Netanyahu to replace Shimon Peres as prime minister of Israel.

Mr. Netanyahu has pledged to pursue peace with Israel's Arab neighbours. But policy guidelines published Monday oppose Palestinian calls for an independent state and the Syrian demand for return of the occupied Golan Heights. They also reject negotiations on the future of Jerusalem.

"The Israelis should not expect not to give in order to take," Mr. Musa said. "We know, the Arab side, that this is a process of give and take. The Israelis will have to learn ... territory for peace, obligation for obligation, commitment for commitment, right for right."

He said that Arab leaders were concerned about hardline statements issued during the Israeli campaign and were watching to see what the new government's actual policies would be.

"We said more than once that we are willing to give them time to consider, to formulate his (Netanyahu's) policy," Mr. Musa said. "And we shall see. But this time is not eternal."

He said that if the new government adheres to the land-for-peace formula, "there will be no need for any action or any backward step" by the Arab side.

8 Bahrainis jailed for up to 10 years

MANAMA (AFP) — A court here condemned eight Bahrainis to between one year and 10 years in prison and fined six of them a total of $60,000 for arson and other acts of anti-government violence, a newspaper said Tuesday.

Bahrain's state security court sentenced four people to 10 years in prison, with three of them also ordered to pay a collective fine of 15,000 dinars ($40,000) for destroying public property, the Gulf Daily News said.

Three others were jailed for three years and fined 7,450 dinars (around $19,700) for setting fire to a post office in the village of Jidhafs, which has been the scene of frequent protests.

An eighth person was jailed for one year during the sentences handed down on Monday.

On May 29, the state security court sentenced six Shiite Muslims to ten years in prison and an eleventh person to two years in jail for sabotage.

Bahrain has been rocked by 18 months of unrest led by Shiite Muslims demanding a restoration of the parliament which the mainly Sunni Muslim authorities suspended in 1975.

At least 22 people have been killed and many others injured in the violence which has included homemade bombs, firebombings, stabbings and beatings.

On Monday a homemade bomb exploded next to a car in a street in the Bahraini capital Manama evening without causing casualties, a government spokesman said.

"The explosion caused minor damage to shop fronts on the main street," he added.

Manama was targeted by a series of bomb attacks in early May which caused an estimated $5 billion in damage but no casualties.

Bahrain accused Iran on June 3 of working to topple the government by financing a Shiite militant group called Hizbollah-Bahrain.

It announced the arrests of militants linked to the alleged plot.

Iran denied the charges, which led to ties being reduced to the level of charge d'affaires.

Ciller rivals launch moves to oppose Islamist coalition

ANKARA (AFP) — At least 20 opponents of former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller in her conservative True Path Party on Tuesday launched a campaign against a possible coalition with the Islamists.

"The dissenters, numbering 20 to 25, are led by former Parliament Speaker Ismet Sezgin, and they will meet soon to coordinate their efforts against a possible coalition deal between Ciller and the (pro-Islamic) Welfare Party," one political source told AFP.

At Tuesday's True Path parliamentary group meeting, Mr. Sezgin and a former top commander protested plans for an alliance with the Islamists, one senior Ciller aide admitted.

"Sezgin and (former chief of the General Staff Dogan) Gures clearly indicated that they are against setting up a coalition with Welfare, and I think some other friends support them," True Path's Deputy Chairman Mehmet Golhan told reporters.

Welfare leader and Prime Minister-designate Necmettin Erbakan and Mrs. Ciller discussed an alliance last week but failed to agree on who would become prime minister in a joint government. The two leaders were due to have a second round of coalition talks Thursday.

Welfare and True Path have a total of 290 deputies to back a possible Erbakan-Ciller coalition in a vote of confidence, and this figure is only 14 more than the absolute majority of 276 in the 550-seat parliament.

"If some 20 True Path deputies defect, the coalition deal may be killed," the source said.

Mr. Erbakan was authorised to form a new cabinet on June 7 after Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz announced the resignation of his conservative coalition government with Mrs. Ciller the previous day.

Mrs. Ciller, usually portrayed at home and abroad as a secular and liberal leader, had ruled out any coalition with Welfare after Turkey's general elections in December which made the Islamists the biggest political group.

However, in a major policy shift, she began giving signs of an intent to cooperate with the Islamists after the fall of the Yilmaz government.

Mr. Sezgin said last week that he believed a partnership with the Islamists would hurt the True Path as there existed huge differences between the two parties.

PLO officer escaped Lebanon blast — wife

SIDON (AFP) — A commander in Yasser Arafat's Fateh faction escaped a massive explosion at his home in Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp which killed six people, his wife and friends said Tuesday.

Nabil Khattab, an Arafat loyalist, was not at his home in the 'Ain Al Hilweh camp when an arms cache and gas bottles stored there exploded during a fire, said his wife, who was injured in the blast.

She told reporters she first raised the alarm when she asked neighbours to help put out the fire in the basement of the two-storey house, used by Mr. Khattab to store ammunition and explosives.

The leader of Fateh loyalists in Lebanon, Sultan Abul Aynan, also told AFP that Mr. Khattab was alive and had not been at home when the explosion happened. He said Mr. Khattab was suffering from depression and was being treated at a clinic in Sidon, the main town in south Lebanon.

Palestinian sources said Mr. Khattab was afraid to return home and face relatives of the victims who are furious with him for storing explosives in a residential area.

As well as the six dead, another 16 people were injured in the northern area of the camp which houses 70,000 refugees.

Turkey warns Arab states over Euphrates River row

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey has warned Arab countries not to adopt any resolutions criticising it for its row with Syria over sharing the Euphrates River waters, a source close to the government said Tuesday.

The source said Foreign Minister Emre Gonensay sent his Arab counterparts a letter urging them not to "create a rift between Turkey and the Arab World" by passing a resolution "which could offend Turkey."

Arab countries — with the exception of Iraq — are meeting in Cairo next week when the Euphrates problem will be on the agenda, along with how to react to Israel's new right-wing government.

Syria has accused Turkey of cutting its Euphrates water supply by a series of dams built as part of an irrigation and energy programme.

Ankara denies doing so, and accuses Damascus in turn of harbouring Kurdish guerrillas fighting government troops in southeast Turkey for an independent homeland.

Bilateral relations plummeted further following the signing a military cooperation accord between Israel and Turkey in February.

Tensions were heightened last week with reports of Syrian troops movements near the border with Turkey. However, Turkish military sources said the action was not aggressive and they did not feel threatened.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Turkish ambassadors in Arab countries were backing up Mr. Gonensay's letter with personal interventions.

Israeli deal

Israeli navy ships will visit ports in southern Turkey early next month in a further sign of increased military cooperation, Israeli and Turkish officials said.

Asked to confirm media reports that Israel and Turkey were planning joint naval exercises, Turkish Ambassador Barlas Ozener said: "When naval ships visit another country's ports, the two countries' ships usually spend some time together at sea."

He told Reuters the visit would take place in early July but gave no specific dates.

Serbs take hostage two OSCE members in Banja Luka

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP) — Bosnian Serbs who want help in finding missing relatives have taken hostage two members of the organisation preparing Bosnia's first post-war elections, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said Tuesday.

The two OSCE members were abducted Monday in this Serb-held city in northwestern Bosnia, said Joanna Vlitz, an OSCE representative.

She said they were being held inside the building housing the OSCE office. The building has been barricaded since Monday by dozens of Serb women who are demanding help in learning the fate of nearly 2,000 Serb soldiers and civilians missing since last summer.

Ms. Vlitz did not name the two members, but witnesses said one of them was the OSCE director in Banja Luka, Ronald Dreyer. She said the abductors were members of an association of relatives of missing or detained Serbs.

Michael Steiner, deputy to Carl Bildt, the international community's high representative in Bosnia, was to arrive in Banja Luka later to negotiate the release of the captives.

OSCE representatives were talking to four people inside the building who are acting as spokesmen for the Serb abductors, Ms. Vlitz said.

The U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo, Alexandre Ivanko, said U.N. police were closely monitoring the situation. He said U.N. officials met Monday night with one of the leaders of the association, Branko Panic, in a bid to break the deadlock. Mr. Panic "informed us that this is a political action that has been taken to attract the attention of U.N. organisations to the problem of arrested Serb soldiers still held in Croatia.